



DISCIPLINE CASE SUMMARY

- a. Steven Russell Mills (DOB: 1952.06.16, Certificate Issued: 1991.06.03; cancelled in 2004 for non-payment of fees)
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- b. Conduct unbecoming a member of the College
- c. The hearing was held on October 16 and October 17, 2007, at the College's offices in Vancouver, B.C. The report and recommendations of the Hearing Sub-Committee (the "Committee") were presented to Council in October 2008, in accordance with section 22 of the *Teaching Profession Act*. This matter originated as a Registrar's Report under section 28(4) of the *Teaching Profession Act*.
- d. Mr. Mills was an art teacher at a secondary school when the incident took place in June 2001. While driving his vehicle to school, Mr. Mills engaged in a physical altercation at the roadside with another motorist, who was unknown to Mr. Mills. He kicked the motorist in the body and head, while uttering verbal threats and thereafter left the motorist injured on the road by leaving the scene in his own vehicle. Mr. Mills was charged with assault causing bodily harm, contrary to section 267(b) of the *Criminal Code*. In 2002, Mr. Mills was acquitted on the assault charge.
- e. The Committee was unanimous in its decision that Mr. Mills initiated the assault against the other motorist and that this assault amounted to conduct unbecoming a member of the College. Mr. Mills used his superior martial arts skills to injure another person and repeatedly kicked him and uttered verbal threats while he was down on the ground. The Committee concluded that the conduct of Mr. Mills in committing the assault fell below the standard of conduct expected of a reasonable teacher. The Committee accepted that not all "off-duty" conduct involving physical aggression would necessarily fall below the standard expected of a reasonable teacher in his private life, but in this case it believed the actions of Mr. Mills did fall below that standard. His actions have an adverse effect upon the education system to which the teacher owes a duty to act responsibly and be a positive role model. This expectation was breached when Mr. Mills assaulted the other motorist in an attempt to resolve a conflict.
- f. The Committee considered the submissions presented by counsel on penalty, publication and costs. The Committee unanimously recommended to Council that Mr. Mills receive a reprimand. With respect to costs, the Committee acknowledged that Mr. Mills did not appear at the hearing and did not create any extra expense in the proceedings. In the matter of publication, the Committee unanimously recommended that Mr. Mills' name be published as he took no position on this issue and there was no evidence supporting anonymous publication.
- g. Council considered the report and recommendations of the Committee and agreed to accept the recommendations and reasons as to penalty, costs and publication.