

## Canadian Teacher's Suspension Upheld by Court

*Canadian teacher Chris Kempling—who told his remarkable story as a speaker at the most recent NARTH Conference—now offers an update on his legal troubles as he grapples with the governing bodies of his profession.*

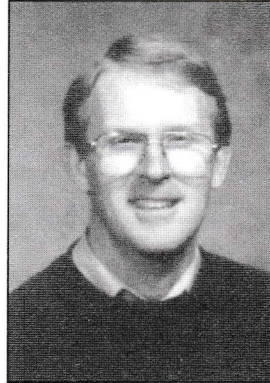
*His letter to the editor of a local newspaper resulted in suspension from his job as a teacher and clinical counselor.*

On February 3, 2004, I finally received the judgment in my case with the British Columbia College of Teachers. I had been disciplined for writing letters to the editor which were critical of homosexual activists trying to have their agenda implemented in BC public schools.

I appealed to the Supreme Court of BC, as the College was unable to find any evidence that my public comments had caused any harm or disturbance to the school system, but suspended me for a month anyway.

Unfortunately, Justice Ronald Holmes has decided that the College of Teachers was correct to suspend me for "conduct unbecoming a member," despite the lack of evidence. Justice Holmes speculated that my publicly-expressed opinions would cause disruption to the school system, negatively impact my effectiveness and reputation as a school counselor, and dissuade students of homosexual orientation from speaking with me. The College was unable to supply any evidence that these inferences were true, but Justice Holmes stated that they were reasonable inferences, nonetheless.

He ignored the reference letters from my supervisors (five of them), who all stated that my public letters had no discernible effect on the school. He ignored evidence that homosexual students received impartial and professional service from me. And he discounted evidence that my public reputation remained intact (e.g. being appointed Chairman of the Community Health Council by the Minister of Health, a very responsible position requiring oversight of 500 health care professionals and support staff).



*Chris Kempling, Psy.D.*

Obviously, I am quite disappointed by the decision, but recognize that the current *zeitgeist* means that any commentary against homosexual behavior is very likely to be negatively sanctioned.

I should also mention that I have been under investigation by my superiors at the school district for advertising orientation-change therapy services in another community 75 miles away, as part of my private practice. I am still trying to figure out why my supervisors believe they have the right to investigate what I do in my private practice, but frankly, everything I do is

under scrutiny.

I do intend to soldier on, however, and have launched an appeal with the BC Court of Appeal (a three-judge panel). As you might expect, this will be costly. For those who are willing to support a colleague, donations may be made to the Christian Public School Teachers' Legal Defense Fund, c/o Mr. Jim Sagert, Trustee, 798 Beaubien Ave, Quesnel, B.C. V2J1A6.

I have just completed my Psy.D. degree and look forward to assisting those who are distressed by unwanted same-sex attraction in my part of the country. I was so impressed by the superlative workshops at the recent NARTH conference in Salt Lake City, I decided to become proactive in addressing the matter here. But worthy goals don't necessarily mean easy roads. I appreciate the support of NARTH members in my time of difficulty, and encourage you to continue with this very important work.

Chris Kempling, Psy.D., R.C.C.  
Registered Clinical Counsellor