



College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia

300-669 Howe Street
Vancouver BC V6C 0B4
www.cpsbc.ca

Telephone: 604-733-7758
Toll Free: 1-800-461-3008 (in BC)
Fax: 604-733-3503

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION – January 5, 2023

Dr. LEA, Norman Keith

Nakusp, BC

1. **Nature of action:** The Inquiry Committee of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (the College) conducted an investigation into the conduct of Dr. Norman Keith Lea, pursuant to section 33(1) of the *Health Professions Act*, RSBC 1996, c.183 (*HPA*).

The Inquiry Committee and Dr. Lea have agreed to resolve all matters arising from the investigation by way of Consent Agreement pursuant to section 37.1(3)(a) of the *HPA*.

2. **Effective date:** August 31, 2022
3. **Name of registrant:** Dr. Norman Keith Lea
4. **Location of practice:** Nakusp, BC
5. **Admission and acknowledgements:** Dr. Lea has admitted and/or acknowledged the following:
 - a. That he engaged in unprofessional conduct by entering into a personal and sexual relationship with an individual while the individual was his patient.
 - b. That he exchanged messages with this patient via Facebook and WhatsApp which were flirtatious and sexualized.
 - c. That between August and December 2018, he repeatedly met with this patient on a personal and social basis, that his relationship with her became sexual, and that they had sexual intercourse at his medical clinic, in the on-call room at the Arrow Lakes Hospital, and at other locations around the community.
6. **Disposition:** Following the authorization of a disciplinary citation pursuant to section 37 of the *HPA*, Dr. Lea entered into a Consent Agreement with the Inquiry Committee of the College, wherein he has consented to the following terms, pursuant to section 39(2) of the *HPA*:
 - a. To be transferred from the Full – Family class of registration to the Conditional – Disciplined class of registration, effective August 31, 2022;
 - b. A formal published reprimand;
 - c. A suspension from the practice of medicine for two years (with six months stayed if terms and conditions are met);
 - d. Completion of a multi-disciplinary program;
 - e. Attendance at an interview at the College with the registrar or her designate;

- f. Compliance with any monitoring of his practice established by the College.
7. **Rationale:** The Inquiry Committee was critical of the registrant's conduct, specifically, the violation of the patient-physician relationship by entering into a sexual relationship with a patient. The committee stated that the registrant violated boundaries in the patient-physician relationship by not only entering a sexual and intimate relationship with a patient, but doing so during her scheduled appointments with him in his office. The committee expressed its concerns that Dr. Lea practised in a small, rural community, and conveyed that this practice setting requires an even greater degree of caution.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia is the licensing and regulatory body for all physicians and surgeons in the province. Governed by provincial legislation, the College's role is to protect the public by establishing, monitoring and enforcing high standards of qualification and ethical practice.

Inquiries:

Communications and Public Affairs

communications@cpsbc.ca