

---

**Aug. 24 , 2020**

### **Retired physician guilty of inappropriate relationship with patient**

**Edmonton, AB** – Dr. Allan Garbutt, a Family Physician who previously practised in the Crowsnest Pass area, was found guilty of unprofessional conduct by a CPSA hearing tribunal.

According to a joint submission, Dr. Garbutt engaged in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a patient between 2002 and 2004 and failed to disclose this relationship to CPSA, falsely reporting he had not committed any boundary violations. Dr. Garbutt later acknowledged the relationship occurred and the hearing tribunal accepted his admission of unprofessional conduct.

The tribunal found Dr. Garbutt’s unprofessional conduct worthy of significant sanction. However, Dr. Garbutt chose to retire and cancel his permit to practise medicine effective Dec. 31, 2019. He also signed an agreement with CPSA not to seek reinstatement.

The tribunal ordered Dr. Garbutt to pay two-thirds of the costs associated with the investigation and hearing (totaling \$13,775.36), as well as a \$5,000 fine, given the seriousness of the unprofessional conduct. Sanctions under Bill 21, *An Act to Protect Patients*, do not apply to this case as the complaint predates the change in legislation.

#### **Resources:**

[CPSA Hearing Tribunal decision](#)

– 30 –

*The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta is the regulator for all physicians and surgeons in the province and is governed by the Health Professions Act. Our role is to protect the public by issuing practice permits to those who meet educational and training criteria, hold Alberta physicians to ethical and medical practice standards, and investigate and resolve physician-related complaints. CPSA also ensures the safety and quality of medical and diagnostic testing services in Alberta through an independent accreditation program.*

#### **Media Inquiries:**

Jessica McPhee, Director of Communications  
Phone: 780 401 0972  
Email: [jessica.mcphee@cpsa.ab.ca](mailto:jessica.mcphee@cpsa.ab.ca)