July 03, 2007 – The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland & Labrador has a strict policy of confidentiality regarding all allegations until they have been thoroughly investigated and a finding of guilt has been made against the physician.

However, this past Friday the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick (CPSNB) indicated that there was a second allegation filed with the CPSNL against Dr. Jim Hanley.

As this complaint has become a matter of public record, the College will now break with its policy and address this matter.

The College confirms that there was a second allegation filed against Dr. Jim Hanley. The complainant expressed a strong desire to withdraw the allegation before it could be fully investigated. At that time the complainant indicated that she would not cooperate further in any way with an investigation.

Due to the serious nature of the allegation, the College did not, at that time, accede to the complainant’s request to withdraw. Since that time, Dr. Hanley’s license has been suspended.

It should also be emphasized that the College would never ordinarily publicly disclose an uninvestigated complaint.

Further, the College wishes to respond to allegations by the CPSNB that it was not given enough information regarding the complaint lodged against Dr. Hanley.

In 2005 the College reached an agreement with Dr. Hanley that he would voluntarily withdraw his license to practice in Newfoundland and Labrador for the duration of the investigation. At that time, the College also overstepped its jurisdiction and secured an undertaking from Dr. Hanley that he would not practice in Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick, or anywhere else in Canada where he held a license. In addition to this, the College issued a Canada-wide notification that Dr. Hanley had withdrawn from medical practice.

In December of 2005, the College fully informed the CPSNB of the nature of Dr. Hanley’s alleged misconduct as well as of his admission of misconduct. The College also informed the CPSNB that Dr. Hanley agreed not to practice in New Brunswick. Despite this information, the CPSNB continued Dr. Hanley’s licensure in New Brunswick.

The College feels that it provided the CPSNB with ample information regarding Dr. Hanley and takes great exception to allegations that it was negligent or uncooperative in this regard.

The College would have liked to have kept this information confidential. It takes great pains to safeguard the identities of complainants and the circumstances of their allegations. Unfortunately, due to the public statements made last week, it was forced to break with its policy.

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