

ALBERTA

PRESS COUNCIL

For Immediate Release

14 May 2012

Further to the media coverage regarding allegations of plagiarism, the Alberta Press Council notes the recent publication by *The Anchor Weekly* of Chestermere of an apology column by Steve Jeffrey, entitled "No More Lighthouse". The column is found on page 20 of *The Anchor Weekly*, volume 11, no. 19, 3 May 2012.

Mr. Jeffrey has acknowledged in his column that he should have given credit where credit was due. He lists in his column the authors of the works that he had plagiarized, naming George Waters, Erik Deckers, Sheila Moss, Russell Wangersky, Peter Chianca, Joe Lavin, Man Martin, John Brock, Jon Martin, Jason Love, Ed Smith, Laura B. Randolph, Daron Williams and Bill Westcott "as persons from whom (he) used substantial pieces of their work under (his) own name."

The Alberta Press Council views plagiarism as a serious ethical breach of accepted standards of conduct within the newspaper industry. The Council welcomes Mr. Jeffrey's public acknowledgement of his wrong-doing and in light of this development, which is akin to the result that would be achieved by way of a formal adjudication under the Council's complaints process, the Council shall proceed no further with the complaint received.

A copy of the column appears on the following page.

The Alberta Press Council was established in 1972 as the first provincial press council in Canada. Led by a Board of Directors consisting of members from the public and the press, the Council's mandate is to:

- to hear and mediate complaints brought against member newspapers,
- to defend the established freedoms of the press, and
- to protect against limitations on access to public information.

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No More Lighthouse

By Steve Jeffrey

So for those of you who have not heard, many of the words I used in the Lighthouse column over the past year were not mine.

I need to credit the authors: George Waters, Erik Deckers, Sheila Moss, Russell Wangersky, Peter Chianca, Joe Lavin, Man Martin, John Brock, Jon Martin, Jason Love, Ed Smith, Laura B. Randolph, Daron Williams, and Bill Westcott from whom I used substantial pieces of their work under my own name.

The articles contained large portions of their work without credit, and I need to apologize.

I found myself getting more and more involved things. Life got busier and busier I found myself in more and more last minute scrambles. I exercised poor judgement by pulling things out of my inbox to fill a page in the paper.

So you have seen the last of 'Sittin' in the Lighthouse, but there is lots in the Anchor to keep you informed and entertained.