

ALBERTA

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**PRESS COUNCIL**

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**For Immediate Release**

30 March 2012

Further to a report published in the *Calgary Herald* (“Calgary-area newspaper editor resigns following plagiarism allegations” by Jason Van Russell, 27 March 2012), the Alberta Press Council wishes to confirm that the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Council did meet on Thursday, 29 March 2012.

The Executive Committee has decided to exercise its discretion to receive the out-of-province complaint regarding the allegations of plagiarism that have received media attention. The Committee views plagiarism, when proven, as a serious ethical breach of accepted standards within the newspaper industry and plagiarism also raises concerns about accuracy. With the Executive Committee having now made the decision to receive an out-of-province complaint about this matter, the complaints process will now unfold in accordance with the Council’s rules and procedures. These rules embrace efforts at informally resolving complaints directly between complainants and the member-newspaper before proceeding to formal means of complaint adjudication.

The Alberta Press Council was established in 1972 as the first provincial press council in Canada. Consisting of members from the public and the press on its Board of Directors, 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.

For further information:

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