



June 23, 2015

Dan Mathieson, President
Stratford Hockey Club

Dear Mr Mathieson,

At the request of the Board of the Stratford Cullitons, Eagle Investigations was retained to conduct an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the disclosure of the criminal conviction against Stratford Cullitons player Mitch Vandergunst (Vandergunst). The investigation was to determine:

- Who may have had knowledge regarding Vandergunst's incident and
- The handling of the incident by the Cullitons once the Vandergunst convictions became public

Between May 11, 2015 and June 16, 2015 Sam Lazarevich, of Eagle Investigations conducted 62 interviews which consisted of:

- 59 members of the Stratford Cullitons, including players, staff and Board members
- One member of the Ontario Hockey Association (via telephone)
- 2 Ontario Provincial Police officers, and
- The victim of the sexual assault

The role of Eagle Investigations was to investigate the circumstances surrounding the Cullitons' knowledge of events and not to provide advice on player education, etc going forward.

Our conclusions are as follows:

At the beginning of each season, the Stratford Cullitons players are given an information package which includes the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct

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is then reviewed with the players by the Director of Hockey Operations, the Coach and the Prevention Officer. Additionally players are advised that if they do get in to difficulties that they are to advise the organization. Once the Code of Conduct has been reviewed and discussed each player signs a copy.

In January of each season, the Prevention Officer meets with the players again and the Code of Conduct is discussed and the players are reminded to advise the organization if they get in to difficulties. In addition they are advised as to what sexual assault is and the laws surrounding same.

In terms of who was aware of the conviction of Vandergunst, we conclude that it was limited to the Coach and a small number of players. The information was not passed on through the organization. No other information was obtained that would indicate any other members of the Cullitons' organization was aware of the charges and/or conviction. As we learned through our interviews and investigation, the players did not share the information, as they generally believed it to be gossip.

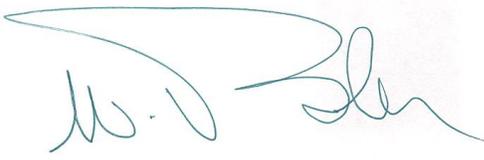
The Coach, who was aware of the issue, felt if he removed Vandergunst from the team he was convicting him, but he did not know at the time he had already been convicted. He also felt that if he advised anyone in the Cullitons' organization, he would lose the trust of the team. Thus, he decided not to take any action or advise anyone regarding the Vandergust situation.

Our investigation established that once the Vandergunst matter became known, the Club President and the Board of Directors acted quickly to remove the player from the team. This was conducted in two phases, with the first being to remove the player from the home game that took place within hours of the President being advised of the convictions and to ban him from any team events until a formal decision was made. The second phase was the determination by the Executive, days later, that the player was to be permanently removed from the team.

Furthermore, Scott Farley, Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Hockey Association confirmed to investigators that once the President and Board were advised of Vandergunst conviction, they advised and worked with the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) on the best course forward, in light of the circumstances. Furthermore, the OHA has no concerns on how the situation was handled by the Cullitons' Board and that this incident could not be classified as preventable as the information was not shared by the coach or the limited number of players who were aware of same.

Should you have any questions or require further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. E. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W".

Walter E. Baker
President/CEO