

John Furlong Admits “no direct or actual knowledge” of Sexual Abuse Complaint to the RCMP
by Laura Robinson:

On Thursday, February 27, former VANOC CEO John Furlong filed his Response to Laura Robinson’s defamation action against him. In it Mr. Furlong finally acknowledged he “has no direct or actual knowledge of whether the plaintiff initiated a complaint with or otherwise reported Ms Abraham’s allegations to the RCMP.” Mr. Furlong has conducted a campaign of unequivocal comments about Ms. Robinson’s involvement.

Ms. Abraham on her own volition reported Mr. Furlong to the Burns Lake RCMP detachment and has sued him, along with two other former students, for sexual abuse and defamation.

Mr. Furlong has stated on many occasions in the media and on his personal website that journalist Laura Robinson reported allegations that he sexually abused Ms. Abraham when she was a child, to the RCMP. On Sept. 27, 2012, Ms. Robinson wrote an article for the Georgia Straight that quoted First Nation people alleging Mr. Furlong was physically, psychologically and racial abusive of them or others when they were children in Northern B.C. in the late 1960’s to early ‘70’s and he was a missionary/teacher at Immaculata School. The article <http://www.straight.com/news/john-furlong-biography-omits-secret-past-burns-lake> does not include any of the allegations of sexual abuse that other media outlets did in fact carry. Mr. Furlong sued Ms. Robinson and the Georgia Straight for defamation. In October 2013 he discontinued the suit against the Straight, saying the RCMP had cleared him of the Abraham sexual abuse allegation therefore he was no longer pursuing the publisher and would “escalate” his case against the journalist.

Mr. Furlong made the following statements in the media tying Ms. Robinson to the sexual abuse allegations:

- October 29, 2013 “Enough is Enough” statement: “After a thorough investigation, the RCMP have cleared me of the allegations that Ms. Robinson brought to the RCMP on behalf of Beverly Abraham in the summer of 2012.Given the finding of innocence by the RCMP I am today discontinuing my legal action against the Georgia Straight...Their publication of this reckless article went ahead even after being warned by the RCMP about material, serious discrepancies in Laura Robinson’s reporting....My defamation case against Laura Robinson will continue and be escalated – she is the perpetrator of these defamatory allegations....In forty years of living, working and public service in BC, there had never been a complaint about me. Never a criminal charge, or a reason for one. Laura Robinson then made one. The RCMP has found her allegation against me to be completely unfounded.”
- October 29, 2013 Macleans Magazine interview: “It was a ridiculous charge. It was a lie. And it was placed before the RCMP by Laura Robinson.”

- October 28, 2013 interview with Chris Gailus, Global TV: “And what’s odd about it is that this activist in fact filed a complaint, not the student. She filed it, she went to the RCMP and made the complaint...she was the one that did that.”
- December 12, 2013 Statement and News Release: “My decision to seek a trial has been made in light of an official letter I received yesterday from the RCMP that fully exonerates me with respect to Ms. Abraham’s false allegations, some of which were also published by the activist Laura Robinson...This conclusion by the RCMP—following a 16-month investigation...is further proof of reckless inaccuracy by the activist Laura Robinson. On September 27, 2012 this activist published an article in The Georgia Straight, outlining some of Ms. Abraham’s false allegations.”

The rest of Mr. Furlong’s Response contains his usual charges against Ms. Robinson; charges she looks forward to defending during her defamation case against Mr. Furlong commencing March 30, 2015. Ms. Robinson and her counsel Bryan Baynham cannot comment further at this time.