

File Number: 127406

November 13, 2013

VIA E-MAIL

Hunter Litigation Chambers Law Corporation
2100 – 1040 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4H1

Attention: John Hunter

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: Furlong v. Robinson and others

We are writing to you in your capacity as solicitor for John Furlong. In a series of media interviews and public statements between October 28, 2013 and November 3, 2013 Mr. Furlong defamed the good name and reputation of our client, Laura Robinson.

First sexual abuse allegation

In an interview with Chris Gailus of Global TV on October 28, 2013 Mr. Furlong stated as follows concerning an RCMP investigation of allegations of sexual abuse by Beverley Abraham:

And what's odd about it is that this activist in fact filed a complaint, not the student. She filed it, she went into the RCMP and made the complaint which is highly unusual. And...and so you know, she was the one that did that.

Similarly, in a public statement posted on Mr. Furlong's website on October 29, 2013 he stated as follows:

In forty years of living, working in public service in British Columbia, there had never been a complaint about me. Never a criminal charge, nor reason for one. Laura Robinson then made one.

In a radio interview with Rick Cluff on CBC radio – The Early Edition – on October 30, 2013, Mr. Furlong said as follows:

I was pilloried and derided and humiliated, branded, scorned, whatever you want to call it in the form of a criminal complaint to the RCMP made by Laura Robinson in respect to Beverley Abraham. Hum, I launched a law suit.

She presented a false charge against me. In actual fact she went to the, to the RCMP and she, she made a false charge against me.

Well, first of all, the suit brought by Beverley Abraham sort of falls into two boxes. Th-there was this criminal complaint made by Laura Robinson on her behalf.

You'd think Laura Robinson would now apologise for the fact that she went to the police with a false complaint against me and I – put my family through hell for seventeen months.

It was malicious and defamatory of Mr. Furlong to make these statements. Worse, Mr. Furlong made the statements knowing that they were false. In fact, when Ms. Abraham went to the RCMP with her allegations of sexual abuse in July 2012, Ms. Robinson was in Ontario preparing to go to the London Olympics as a journalist.

The original story

With respect to the original story published in the Georgia Straight on September 28, 2012, Mr. Furlong stated in the October 28, 2013 interview with Chris Gailus as follows:

But the story was given to them by Laura Robinson. She put all of this together. I mean she did all of the work. All of this is hers. And so I tried, we tried to tell her that this was false...

Like they, how could people be saying this without one scintilla of proof...

In the public statement posted by John Furlong on October 29, 2013, Mr. Furlong states as follows:

The Georgia Straight, the tabloid that was the only newspaper to publish Ms. Robinson's article...But it is the source of these lies that I wish to pursue.

In his interview with Rick Cluff on October 30, 2013 Mr. Furlong stated as follows:

I think as this unfolds we'll find out a lot more about Laura Robinson's role in all of this. Laura Robinson spent time up there...What I do know, all of this uhm is, is all of it is a lie intended to hurt.

The fact is that Mr. Furlong refused numerous requests from Ms. Robinson for an interview prior to publication of the story in the Georgia Straight. Further, Mr. Furlong's lawyer was provided with copies of eight affidavits filed by former students of Mr. Furlong which affidavits set out in detail the verbal and physical abuse inflicted on them by Mr. Furlong.

Furlong's public statement

In the public statement posted by Mr. Furlong on October 29, 2013, Mr. Furlong states as follows:

Mrs. Robinson has a two decade-long pattern of inaccuracy in her writing. Her words have hurt innocent people. I also do not know or understand the motives for Laura Robinson's campaign against me. But I do know, despite numerous warnings from my legal counsel to Ms. Robinson that her allegations are wrong her vicious campaign is continuing, even escalating.

This activist is also spreading these horrible allegations about me in Europe, at a conference called Play The Game – her talk is entitled – *Truth, Lies and History: John Furlong and Canadian Sports' Moral Vacuum*.

In his interview with CBC's Rick Cluff on October 30, 2013 the following exchange occurred:

John Furlong:

And she did it before to others. You know who those people are. She did it to people in Vancouver before.

Rick Cluff:

You say the reporter who wrote this article, Laura Robinson, has a personal vendetta against you...

John Furlong:

The fact of the matter is, Laura Robinson needs to be s—i—[sic]. Laura Robinson needs to be held accountable for what she has done and she has done it before and it needs to stop.

It was malicious and defamatory of Mr. Furlong to make these allegations against Ms. Robinson. Ms. Robinson is a highly regarded and well respected investigative journalist who has published six books on sport. These books have either been best sellers or won national and international awards. In June 2012, a honorary doctorate of law was conferred upon her by York University for her excellence as a journalist, author, athlete and advocate of human-rights in sports and physical activity. Her work on sexual abuse in sport is recognized as ground-breaking throughout the world.

Demand for an apology

Mr. Furlong's false statements and the latest media assault he unleashed are very damaging to Ms. Robinson's hard earned reputation for independence and journalistic excellence. Mr. Furlong's deliberate strategy to attack Ms. Robinson so as to divert attention from his own misconduct has severely affected Ms. Robinson's ability to earn an income both as a lecturer and as a freelance journalist.

Please accept this letter as a demand for a full and complete retraction and an apology of each and every defamatory statement made by Mr. Furlong in the media and online.

On behalf of our client we also demand that Mr. Furlong take down the statement entitled "Enough is Enough" which continues to be published on Mr. Furlong's personal website. We trust we do not need to cite case law that is authority for the well-known proposition that each "hit" of the material published online is a new defamation and the failure to take down defamatory content upon receipt of a demand such as this can be found by a court to be a basis for granting aggravated and even punitive damages. Please confirm in writing once Mr. Furlong has taken down the offending statement.

Prior to issuing the retraction and demand for apology, please ensure that a draft of the proposed statement is provided to me for review and approval by my client.

Our client reserves the right to assess the extent of damage to her reputation and the right to sue for defamation for each and every defamation statement made and published by Mr. Furlong.

Yours truly,

HARPER GREY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan G. Baynham", written over a horizontal line.

Per: Bryan G. Baynham, Q.C.

BGB/blj