

STATEMENT FROM LAURA ROBINSON

I have asked my counsel, Bryan Baynham, Q.C. to issue the following statement to the media since I am unable to do so as I am presently in Denmark to present a paper at the Play the Game conference.

I presented the paper earlier today as planned. In doing so I was pleased to have the support of the organizers of the conference who did not bow to the threat from Mr. Furlong's lawyer to sue them if they allowed me to speak and present my paper at the conference.

The original story published in the GEORGIA STRAIGHT was about Mr. Furlong's conduct when he was at Frontier Apostle Missionary. It is still about Mr. Furlong. It is also important to note that he has done great damage to the First Nation people who have courageously come forward about his past abuse and now must relive it with every one of his denials.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

1. The outstanding action for defamation concerns the conduct of Mr. Furlong when he taught and coached in Burns Lake and Prince George and the news story published about Mr. Furlong in the GEORGIA STRAIGHT. It is not about either my personal life or the news stories I have written in the past.
2. I did not bring the allegations of sexual abuse of Beverley Abraham to the attention of the RCMP. Ms. Abraham personally filed the complaint.
3. The RCMP investigation does not show Mr. Furlong's innocence as he alleges in his statement and in his various interviews with the media over the last few days. As reported in several media stories RCMP Sargent Rob Vermeulen has said "the overall investigation remains open".
4. Neither I nor my counsel have "used the courts as a platform ... to publish ... false accusations". I stand behind the facts set out in my response and look forward to proving each and every fact at trial.

5. Mr. Furlong has done nothing to push the case for trial. If he was serious about having his name cleared he could have issued a notice of trial immediately after filing the Notice of Civil Claim in November 2012. Eleven months later he still has not obtained a trial date. He has not even set a date to conduct an oral discovery of me.

TAKING ACTION

I have instructed my counsel to take the following steps:

1. Apply to court to have Mr. Furlong's claim dismissed for want of prosecution;
2. Apply to court for an order striking those portions of Mr. Furlong's reply that attack me personally and professionally.

I value my hard-earned reputation as a freelance investigative journalist. I also value freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. My personal reputation, my reputation as a journalist, and my ability to earn a living have been seriously damaged by Mr. Furlong's vindictive personal attacks starting in September 2012 and culminating in the onslaught this week.

I will not bow to the pressure being applied in the media, nor Mr. Furlong's threat to "escalate" the defamation action. I stand by what I wrote and the response filed on my behalf in the action. I look forward to the truth coming out at trial and the judgment which will restore my good name and reputation.