

Summary of Alternative Dispute Resolution Settlement Agreement

IN THE MATTER OF:

Kristi Lavallee, Registered Social Worker

Kristi Lavallee is a registered social worker in Newfoundland and Labrador pursuant to the *Social Workers Act (2010)*.

On September 22, 2023, the NLCSW received a letter of allegation regarding the social work practice of Kristi Lavallee. In this allegation, it was alleged that Ms. Lavallee did not establish and maintain appropriate boundaries with clients on multiple occasions.

Following an investigation, the Complaints Authorization Committee referred the allegation to the registrar for Alternative Dispute Resolution, and a Settlement Agreement was put in place.

Ms. Lavallee acknowledged errors in judgement by failing to maintain professional boundaries with a client on multiple occasions. Further to this, Ms. Lavalee acknowledged that her behavior was in contravention of Value # 4 of the CASW (2005) Code of Ethics, specifically that social workers establish appropriate boundaries in relationships with clients and ensure that the relationship serves the needs of clients. Ms. Lavallee acknowledged that her actions amounted to “professional misconduct” as per section 23(c)(i) of the *Social Workers Act (2010)*.

Kristi Lavallee agreed to a disposition of the allegation which included the following:

- 1) A reprimand will be placed on Ms. Lavallee’s file for a period of one year.
- 2) Ms. Lavallee will complete a course in social work ethics and boundaries.
- 3) Ms. Lavallee will submit a self-reflective report regarding the management of boundaries in professional practice.
- 4) The NLCSW will publish a summary of the Settlement Agreement on its’ website. The summary will remain on the website until all conditions of the agreement are met. A notation will remain on the registry for a period of ten (10) years from the date in which the summary is removed from the website.

Phil O’Neil, MSW, RSW
Registrar
September 4, 2024