

[Side A]

1. CKNW-AM Rafe Mair, 17 May 01, 10:05 PT

RM : Rafe Mair back with you in the Vancouver studios of CKNW. Just before I go to the lines, my heartiest congratulations to Dr. Neil Snider and Trinity Western University for winning that case in the Supreme Court of Canada against the BC College of Teachers. Now I must say that I perhaps don't share many of the views that Dr. Snider and his, his staff and his university-uh, have. However, to suggest that asking, by asking, students to abide by certain moral standards would compromise their ability to be fair teachers was clearly wrong and in itself an abuse of power by the College of Teachers, and I'm delighted that the Supreme Court of Canada saw it the way the other courts did. It was a long, expensive struggle for Trinity Western University. I say good on them for fighting that fight through, and again, my congratulations. Your calls, any topic, 280-9898. Line 11 from Vancouver Island, good morning.

Caller : Uh, good morning. A couple of points-uh, just on your-uh, comment-uh. I, I also congratulate Trinity Western. That cost them close to five hundred thousand dollars. Uh –

RM : I'm surprised it's that little.

Caller : Yeah, I think it's five or six hundred thousand dollars. A lot of people contributed to it, and I think it was finally the right decision. I think the College of Teachers should be ashamed of taking it to the Supreme Court, but that's –

RM : So do I.

Caller : – that's another thing. Uh, two quick comments. One-uh, the incessant references to working people, I mean, it just bugs me. Who doesn't work in this province? We all work, you know? And it seems like the NDP and the labourers, you know, have this-uh, you know, “We're the only people that stand up for working people.” Give me a break. All the working people turfed them out. Um, and the other thing is I don't think that the-um, uh-rules should be changed. I think the people's will was that the NDP were out—

[end of CKNW segment 2:00]

2. CBU-AM, CBC News, 17 May 01, 12:04 PT

Reporter : ...Steven Quinn, CBC News, Vancouver.

Host : Canada's highest court has ruled in favour of a Langley university that, among other things, bans homosexual behaviour by its students and staff. The BC College of Teachers had refused to accredit teachers trained by Trinity Western University because

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of the imposition of Christian moral standards. But the Supreme Court disagreed in an eight-to-one decision today. Jill Bennett reports.

Jill Bennett [JB] : Trinity Western first applied to the BC College of Teachers to certify its teacher education programme in 1995. The Christian university was turned down because of a community standards document staff and students must sign. They agree to refrain from practices the school deems biblically condemned. They include swearing, pre-marital sex, homosexual behaviour, watching pornography, and stealing. The College argued the document was discriminatory and the College pursued its case after losing two lower court rulings and appeals. Today the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of Trinity Western, a move executive director Guy Saffold applauds.

Guy Saffold [GS] : We're very enormously pleased that the Supreme Court of Canada has taken such a strong stand in favour of-uh, freedom of conscience for Canadian people.

JB : Saffold says the university now hopes to start offering the final year of its teachers' education programme. Meanwhile, the BC College of Teachers has spent much of this morning meeting with legal staff and deciding what to do next. Registrar Doug Smart says the College hopes to have a reaction this afternoon. Jill Bennett, CBC News, Vancouver.

Host : Reports that the Lower Mainland's transit strike could last well into summer has some—

[end of CBU-AM segment]

3. CKWX-AM News, 17 May 01, 12:08 PT

Host : —rather, for over a year. The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled a private British Columbia university that requires students and staff to refrain from gay sex can accredit public school teachers.

Terry Pedwell: The Supreme Court ruled today it was wrong for the British Columbia College of Teachers to deny accreditation in 1996 for Trinity Western University's teaching programme because of what the Teacher's College called discriminatory practices. The Langley school espouses principals of the Evangelical Free Church. The Court says there's nothing wrong with that, and, in fact, ruled the College failed to prove that Trinity graduates go on to discriminate against students in the classroom. Terry Pedwell, Ottawa.

Host : Federal Finance Minister, Paul Martin, says the Chretien government—

[end of CKWX segment]

4. CKNW-AM News, 17 May 01, 17:00 PT

Host : – hospital. After four years and more than one million dollars in legal bills, Trinity Western University is pleased the battle over its teacher certification programme is finally over. Here’s CKNW’s Carrie Stephenson.

Carrie Stephenson [CS]: The Executive Vice President of Trinity Western University, Guy Saffold, is grateful to the Supreme Court of Canada for what he says is an unambiguous decision that protects the religious freedoms of all Canadians.

Guy Saffold : Uh, three courts have ruled on this issue now and all of them have reached the same conclusion.

CS : Saffold says Trinity Western intends to implement the fifth year of its teacher certification programme in the fall of 2002. The university stresses its controversial code of conduct that binds students from engaging in premarital sex and homosexuality is not a code of beliefs and is not discriminatory. Carrie Stephenson, Vancouver.

Host : Meantime, the BC Civil Liberties is applauding the decision. Lawyer Tim Delaney says the high [5:00] court has made an important distinction between beliefs and conduct.

Tim Delaney : – and-uh, of significance, uh, in our view is that, um, while equality rights are important, uh, they don’t necessarily take precedence over freedoms of belief and religion. Uh, one has to-uh, balance those two or, or try to reconcile them when you can.

Host : Delaney adds there was never any evidence Trinity Western graduates acted in a discriminatory fashion as a result of the conduct code. He says the College of Teachers, while trying to be well-meaning, took a simplistic view of the issue. In ordering a new trial for three men acquitted in the Dosanj murders, the BC Court of – [end of CKNW segment]

5. CBU-AM, CBC News, 17 May 01, 17:34 PT

Host : —in history. Graduates of the Trinity Western University teacher education programme will, or should, get official accreditation in the fall of 2002; that after the Supreme Court of Canada ruled the BC College of Teachers must recognise the programme. The College had refused because students and staff at Trinity Western must agree to a strict moral code. Jill Bennett reports.

JB : Students and staff at Trinity Western must agree not to engage in several things, including homosexual activity and pre- and extra-marital sex. The BC College of Teachers argued that was discrimination and it refused to accredit the teacher education programme, but the high court has ruled in favour of Trinity Western, and ordered it to

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recognise the programme. College Registrar Doug Smart says the lengthy court challenge cost more than five hundred thousand dollars. He says even though the eight-to-one Supreme Court ruling is in favour of Trinity Western, it also gives some merit to the College’s argument.

Doug Smart : This whole notion of recognising that we were appropriately looking at these issues has been unanimously confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada. That wasn’t-uh, a part that was-uh, recognised by the lower courts.

JB : But the Executive Vice President of Trinity Western, Guy Saffold, says it’s obvious that the College didn’t take the time to read the laws of the county.

GS : Which say that, uh-people do have-uh, freedom of belief-uh, but we do-uh, hold to the-uh-uh, freedom to-uh, have our own-uh, view of sexual morality.

JB : The College of Teachers and Trinity Western are now in discussions. It’s expected the teacher education programme will be accredited starting in the fall of 2002. Jill Bennett, CBC news, Vancouver.

Host : The Federal Fisheries Department is predicting a good year for –
[end of CBU-AM segment]

6. CBC As It Happens, 17 May 01, 19:40 PT

[music]

Host : It was a case that pitted freedom of religion against freedom from discrimination and in the end the Supreme Court of Canada came down on the side of faith-based institutions. The Court ruled today that the BC Teachers’ College cannot refuse to certify the teaching programme at Trinity Western University because of its strict, Christian standards. Guy Saffold is the Executive Vice President of Trinity Western University. We reached him in Langley, BC. Dr. Saffold, what was the issue here? Why wouldn’t the BC College, Teacher’s College certify your students?

GS : The College of Teachers-uh, maintained that-uh, our students might somehow, might treat-uh-uh, homosexual students in the classroom-uh, inappropriately and they seemed to feel that, um-uh, that would be-uh, a concern-uh, for-uh-uh, for the public schools of British Columbia.

Host : Because it is your belief that—

GS : We believe in-uh, marriage and we have historic-uh, Christian-uh, belief that-uh, sexuality is part of marriage and we ask our students to respect that standard while they’re here on campus.

Host : And do you believe that homosexuality is wrong?

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GS : Yeah, we believe that-uh, that sexuality is a part of marriage and shouldn't be practised otherwise.

Host : So, so if there were homosexual marriages?

GS : Well, there aren't homosexual marriages here in Canada at this point and-uh-uh, our standard is just a standard in favour of marriage.

Host : Okay. Now the Court has said that the-uh, the BC Teachers' College, in any event, acted unfairly, right?

GS : Correct. Yes, the the the Court, the Supreme Court, in common with the two previous courts that looked at it, said that the College of Teachers acted on the basis of-uh, presumption rather than evidence, and-uh, under Canadian law and a principle in Canadian society is you cannot discriminate against people on the basis of your stereotypes. Uh, you have to supply some reason- basis for your conclusion and the College of Teachers did not do that.

Host : So there was no evidence that your graduates discriminated against gays or lesbians in the classroom.

GS : No, there was none whatsoever.

Host : The Court also pointed out that the College doesn't screen students from public universities on the [10:00] basis of their beliefs. Do you feel that, that you were unfairly targeted for some reason?

GS : Yes, we feel that the-uh, the British Columbia College of Teachers engaged in-uh, a rather naked attempt at discrimination on the basis of stereotype. Uh, we've been training teachers for thirteen years-uh they're in the public school classrooms of British Columbia-uh there's never been a complaint against any of them, and in fact they serve with distinction. So to move ahead and attempt to-uh, take a fairly severe action against us on the basis of a stereotype was simply inappropriate. And we're very pleased that the Courts agreed with that.

[11:00]

Host : What were your other options here?

GS : Well, our options-uh, so far have been to carry the case-uh, to the highest-uh, Court.

Host : But what have you been doing about your graduates and your teaching programme?

GS : Oh-uh –

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Host : In the meantime?

GS : Yes, we've, from, from-uh, the beginning our teacher programme has been in two parts: four years here at Trinity Western University and one year with Simon Fraser University. Uh, this, the, this case was-uh, was triggered by our application to offer that fifth year-uh, in addition to the first four years, and the College of Teachers needed to grant its approval to that fifth year but it chose not to do that.

Host : So, what will you do now?

GS : Well, now we intend to move ahead with-uh, the fifth year of our teaching-uh, programme and then our students will be able to complete their education programme from start to finish here at Trinity Western.

Host : Do you think that stereotype-uh, that you speak of is widely held?

GS : Well, I'm, I'm not sure how widely its held. It was certainly-uh –

Host : [speaks at same time] Belief in the stereotype –

GS : – indulged in by the College of Teachers and, and the Courts-uh, detected that and-uh, made it plain that-uh, this is not appropriate within our Canadian-uh, society.

Host : And, and what's the nature of the, the stereotypical view that they held?

GS : Well, I think they had a stereotype that if you have people who have a commitment to-uh-uh, Christian marriage somehow they will act in a discriminatory fashion against other people and the Courts said that simply does not follow.

Host : The Court also said that to believe something is not necessarily to discriminate against somebody.

GS : Well, that's correct. And we all have different views of moral matters. Uh, many of us-uh, have-uh, one opinion-uh, others have another opinion-uh, but our principle in Canada is that we learn to live with tolerance and respect for one another-uh, even though we have different views and the Court has upheld that-uh, principle.

Host : Are there any, are there any sets of views that you would challenge and that you would not want to see, um, held by people who were teachers in, in classrooms.

GS : Well, I think the principle that you have to uphold-uh, which we do, is that every single student of public school classroom without-uh, exception is-uh, worthy of respect and dignity, of being encouraged and nurtured educationally. And if someone were to step forward and say there's some category of student that should not be respected-uh, we

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would object to that very strongly. Uh, our standards themselves-uh, have in them as a principle that our students are to show love and respect for other people at all times, and-uh, I, I wouldn't want people training teachers if they maintained that there were categories of students that could be treated poorly.

Host : Have your graduates had trouble getting jobs in the province?

GS : No, our graduates are-uh, sought after-uh, they teach-uh-uh, very well-uh, they're, you know they're committed people, they have an ethic of-uh, service and compassion for others, and-uh, and they get jobs quite easily.

Host : Okay, Dr. Saffold, thanks very much

GS : Thank you very much.

Host : Bye bye.

GS : Bye.

Host : Guy Saffold is the Executive Vice President of Trinity Western University. He spoke to us from Langley, BC.

[music; end of CBC segment]

7. CKNW World Today, 17 May 01, 15:45 PT

Woman : – no you did. [laughs] Eagle eye.

Host : Alright then. Uh, 3:45 now here on The World Today. A private BC university that regulates the behaviour of its staff and students is being allowed to accredit public school teachers. That's a ruling today from the Supreme Court of Canada. Trinity Western University in Langley makes faculty and students sign a contract saying they will not engage in homosexual activity, will not have pre-marital sex or look at pornography, and won't tell lies, swear, or get drunk, among other rules said to be based on the Bible. The BC Teachers' College had argued that the university's policies amounted to discrimination, but the Court has ruled in favour of Trinity Western. For reaction, now, we will talk to Murray Warren. He speaks for GALE, which stands for the Gay and Lesbian Educators of BC. Mr. Warren, good afternoon.

Murray Warren [MW] : Good afternoon, Phillip.

Host : Did you expect this ruling?

MW : Yes, I, I, I'm, I'm not surprised by the ruling. Um, I've been following the case for-uh, a number of years now and having heard various arguments, um-uh, on both

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sides-uh, I wasn't totally surprised-uh, to hear what the ruling was by the Supreme Court of Canada.

[15:00]

Host : I imagine you must be dismayed by it.

MW : Well, let me say-uh, rather than dismayed-uh uh, I'm somewhat concerned and I'm concerned in this regard, that-uh, we now have a religiously-based-uh, institution, private institution who will be preparing student teachers-uh, and future teachers, to teach in the public school system. Uh, in British Columbia, the School Act-uh, requires that schools and ed- public education be conducted on strictly-uh, non-secular-uh, non-sec-uh, secular, non-sectarian grounds. Um, and now we have the situation where-uh, a religiously-based-uh, private institution will be certifying teachers to teach in the public school system.

Host : Well, I'll I'll I'll tell you Murray, that's the part that I found surprising about the ruling. Here's, for what its worth, my thought on this. If this private university had been turning out teachers who were going to teach in private schools, I suppose you could argue that-uh, that's their business –

MW : [speaks at same time] Exactly.

Host : – but this this this business of turning out public school teachers- what do you think is going to happen?

MW : Well, let me give you an example-uh, Phillip, from my own personal experience. Um uh, last year-uh, and for the two previous years, I taught at-uh, Simon Fraser University as what's called the faculty associate. I was-uh um, borrowed from my school district to-uh, work as a-uh um, as a supervisor and a mentor for student teachers going through their student teacher training. And-uh, as part of that process-uh, I came in contact and did do some work with-uh, students who were doing their student teacher preparation, um uh, through Simon Fraser University but actually doing it on campus at Trinity Western. Um, and in discussions with them, um, and in workshops that, that I had done with them, um, I was somewhat concerned to hear some of their views regarding how they would, um-uh, at what level they would be prepared to work with and accept students who might have a sexual orientation other than heterosexuality.

Host : Do you think that this simply will mean that anyone who is homosexual and wants to be a teacher will simply ignore trying to get to Trinity Western or will they remain in the closet?

MW : I think if, if they, if they want to go to Trinity Western University-uh, they would, I think the the the-uh, community contract whi- whi- which students and faculty are required to-uh, to sign is that they will not, um uh, be actively, sexually active when it

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comes to, um, pre-marital sex or homosexuality. I don't think it requires them not to be-uh, homosexual. I think people can declare their-uh, sexual orientation at Trinity Western but-uh, or, are required-uh, not to act upon that.

Host : But they wouldn't, they wouldn't declare it because what's the point, because if –

MW : [speaks at same time] Yes.

Host : – you know, the the, you're just asking for trouble if you say, “By the way I'm, I am homosexual and-uh, I will sign this this form.” I mean, the, it wouldn't be worth your while in other words.

MW : I should have thought not.

Host : Well, what happens next, anything? I mean, this as far as it can go, the ruling has been made so-uh, so the Teachers-uh, the College of Teachers, they're out of the picture now, are they?

MW : Well, as far-uh, as as I know, yes, that that would be the case. Uh, the other thing that concerns me is is that, um, what, where are the boundaries now, um-uh uh, as far as certifying teachers for public-uh, school teaching? Uh, if we have-uh, religiously-based-uh, universities now-uh, being able to, um-uh uh, accredit student teachers, um, where, where does that end? I'm not sure.

Host : [speaks at same time]

MW : I think it has major implications.

Host : I, I agree with you, and I, I, I, um, I come back to the point we were, we were talking about. I, I'm a big believer that if it's, if it's my private life-uh, I should be- get along, you know, do what ever I want to, but the fact that we are now doing this with public school teachers – that's the part of the ruling that I don't understand, and maybe I should go back and try to-uh, and try to read it. Just give me your, your last take on, on why this would be the case.

MW : [Sighs] That's really difficult [laughs].

Host : [speaks at same time] Yup.

MW : I, I don't, I, I, I haven't a chance, an opportunity to, to read-uh, the, the decision, um, by the Supreme Court and and and the reasons that the, um, the Supreme Court, um, judges gave-uh, in support of Trinity Western. Uh, but as a public school teacher, um-uh, it concerns me that there, there will probably now be teachers-uh, teaching in, in the system who have [20:00] gone through-uh, a religiously-based programme which condemns-uh-uh, homosexuality and that there will be students, and, and perhaps even

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parents, that these teachers will come in contact with and I'm not convinced that they will be treating them-uh, equitably or or equally in relation to other students.

Host : Murray, must run, thank you.

MW : Thank you, it was a pleasure to talk to you.

Host : Murray Warren, there, speaks for the Gay and Lesbian Educators of BC.

[music]

8. CKNW-AM Rafe Mair, 18 May 01, 08:46 PT

[commercial]

Rafe Mair [RM] : The legal battle between Trinity Western University in Langley and the BC College of Teachers is one that groups across Canada- is one that groups across Canada have been watching very closely. At issue: the University's right to train teachers for public school classrooms despite its belief that homosexuality is a grave sin, [pause] and pre-marital sex for that matter. The College had argued graduates from the University, because of their beliefs, might stigmatize gay students. Well, after a long, five-year battle, Canada's Supreme Court yesterday rejected that argument and ruled in favour of the University. Guy Saffold is Vice President of Trinity Western University. It was an eight-to-one decision, Judge Claire L'Heureux-Dubé dissenting and Guy's on the line. Guy, good morning.

Guy Saffold [GS] : Good morning, Rafe.

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RM : Now, tell me first of all, if you would, what is the situa- what was the situation, or, I should start again, what is the situation that, that Trinity Western, with respect to the moral behaviour expected of students.

GS : Well, our-uh, standard is clear. We're-uh, a Christian community. We have a conviction about-uh, marriage and that sexuality is a part of marriage between a husband and a wife and-uh, for the period of time that students are here we expect them to-uh, respect to that principle.

RM : Do you enforce that?

GS : Well, it's not-uh, part of our, our culture, or really our desire to go around peering over people's shoulders-uh. When-uh, when violations of our standards on anything, plagiarism, or, um-uh, disrespect for others, or on this issue come to-uh, our attention, sure, then we would deal with it.

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[23:07]

RM : Does that mean that homosexuals are not permitted to study at Trinity Western University?

GS : No, homosexuals would be welcome. Um, what we do ask the students to do is to limit their behaviour within the bounds of our standard for the time they're with us.

RM : I think it should be pointed out as well, Guy, that this is a private and privately funded university.

GS : That's correct.

RM : Now, what was the dust-up you had with the College of Teachers? What was the issue?

GS : Well, the College of Teachers-uh um , sorry, I was going to say that our education programme was in two parts, four years with us and one year with Simon Fraser University, and we had applied to offer that fifth year-uh, on our own campus to make the path-uh, to graduation smooth for students. Uh, the College of Teachers sent a panel of experts to look at the programme and to evaluate it, and that panel recommended that it be approved. Uh, they sent-uh-uh, another-uh, group-uh- through the evidence again, which also recommended it be approved, but the council of the College, noting that we had a standard against homosexual behaviour-uh, refused to approve the programme.

RM : Now, the basis of their complaint, I gather, was that students who were taught to be teachers at Trinity Western would not have a sufficiently liberal position with regard to students ultimately under their care?

GS : They said-uh, they were concerned, and I, I think it was a reasonable concern- that students in the public school classrooms, all of them, without exception, would be treated with respect. Uh, our difference with them is we'd said there was no evidence that our students would do otherwise. We-uh, we teach that as a fundamental principle of our full education programme.

RM : I guess this gets down to the basics, doesn't it Guy? Does your university teach any sort of derision for, or contempt for, or dislike of, or hatred of homosexuals?

GS : Well, not all. In fact, that would be a violation of the standard that we have which calls-uh, for our students to respect the-uh, dignity of other people at all times. Uh, we simply disagreed with the College of Teachers; we said the fact that we have-uh, a difference of view on the morality of homosexual behaviour does not necessarily mean that we are going to go around-uh, being intolerant toward people.

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RM : I suppose one might say, too, that there would be many-uh, teachers, not necessarily of any religious persuasion, who might feel that pre-marital sex among students is a bad thing, and yet that would not mean they would mistreat, abuse, or hate, or do anything to students they knew were having pre-marital sex.

GS : Well, that’s right. And I, I would hope that also means that-uh-uh, teachers who are-uh, gay would not necessarily mistreat Christian students. Uh, you know, we have to learn in our culture to-uh, respect the differences we have and yet still treat each other-uh, with dignity.

RM : Now-uh, what did this whole thing cost you?

GS : Well, by the end of-uh, the-uh, five year run-uh, the cost was fairly substantial. We had to pay the legal bills, of course, and our reputation as a university was at stake, so you have cost to communicate about the issue, as well as fundraising costs, and the final bill ended up around 1.6 million dollars.

RM : You’ll get some of that back, I presume, by way of party and party costs, but not a great deal.

GS : No, about two hundred thousand dollars will come back.

RM : Alright, where does this now, where does it now sit? Uh, you’re able to have a five year programme, graduate-uh, students as teachers, and the, they must be accepted by the College?

GS : Yeah, our programme stands approved by order of the Court, and the College has already been in touch and offered to-uh, work with us in getting the programme, um-uh, going ahead. The actual certification of the teachers, of course, depends on their passing their courses and demonstrating their competence in the classroom, and we certainly-uh, expect that they will do that.

RM : Well I must say, Guy, that while I don’t necessarily hold the same religious views as you and the others at your College, or your university-uh, do hold, I congratulate you; I supported you during the time in a very small way, and I’m delighted that the result turned out the way it has.

GS : Well, we are too, and its-uh, we think it’s good news for-uh, all kinds of groups in Canada. Really what the Court has said is any group with unpopular views can’t be penalized simply because their views don’t-uh, satisfy the particular orthodoxy of the current officials-uh, you have to bring a reasoned, factual case to show that there’s a problem.

RM : Guy, thank you very much for joining us this morning and, again, congratulations.

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GS : Thank you, Rafe.

RM : Bye bye, now.

GS : Bye, now.

RM : Guy Saffold, who is the Vice President of Trinity Western University. We've got some time for calls on any topic whatso--
[26:35 – end of CKNW segment]

[26:45]

[End Side A]