

IN THE MATTER OF the *Veterinarians Act*, SBC 2010, c. 15, as amended

The College of Veterinarians of British Columbia

(the “CVBC”)

– and –

Dr. Janice Posnikoff

(the “Respondent”)

ORDER MADE AT THE HEARING RE. PUBLICATION BAN

Pursuant to Section 60(2) of the Act and Sections 293(1) and 295 of the CVBC Bylaws, the Panel directs as follows:

1. The hearing in this matter will be closed to public attendance in order to preserve the safety of involved individuals.
2. A copy of the reasons for the above direction delivered orally on June 23, 2025 will be posted on the CVBC website with this Order;
3. No person shall publish or broadcast in any public medium, including on social media and/or the internet, any information that may tend to identify the witnesses at the hearing or any individuals involved in the incident which is the subject of the Citation; including, without limitation: a) their names, places of residences, or contact information (phone, email, or social media); b) their current places of employment, job titles, or job descriptions; c) any images of them; d) any audio recordings of their voices; or e) the name or address of the location at which the incident occurred;
4. All participants or persons present at the hearing are prohibited from disseminating any reproduction of any portion of the proceedings, or any materials received by them in connection with the hearing, in any fashion other than authorized copies, recordings or transcripts produced or reproduced by the Court Reporter or the College Registrar and

provided to persons authorized to receive them for the purposes of the hearing or related legal proceedings.

This Order is made this 24th day of June, 2025.

Carol Baird Ellan

Carol Baird Ellan K.C.
Chair of the Panel

Al Runnells

Dr. Al Runnells

Ian Welch

Dr. Ian Welch

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ORAL RULING OF THE PANEL RE. PUBLICATION BAN

The below is an excerpt from the transcripts as prepared by Ms. Vicki Webster, Official Reporter from Coast Reporting on June 23, 2025:

1 (BEGINNING OF EXCERPT)

2 THE CHAIR: And so we've heard submissions this morning on
3 whether or not this matter should be open to the
4 public. Presumptively these matters generally are
5 open to the public, and Ms. Magcalas facilitates
6 that by providing links for people to attend by
7 audio, and that has happened in the past, although
8 they're not extensively attended in my experience.
9 But it would be something of an extraordinary
10 measure for the panel to bar the public from
11 attending, and we have had some considerable
12 discussion about that after hearing the able
13 submissions on both parties' parts.

14 And we have decided to take that
15 extraordinary step for a number of reasons, that
16 is, the step to exclude the public. We have heard
17 the wording of some of the comments in the social

18 media realm that Mr. Doolittle has shared, and we
19 understand the negative one or two that he shared
20 to be that -- representative or perhaps the most
21 concerning of the comments, and we accept that
22 that's the content of the comment.

23 We discussed whether we need to see
24 anything further about social media, but we don't
25 want to get sidetracked into a sideshow essentially

1 of a social media campaign. We didn't think it was
2 appropriate, and it might, in fact, be
3 inappropriate for us to see any more of that, so
4 we're taking what Mr. Doolittle has presented as
5 the most concerning of the comments, and then we
6 take those comments at face value.

7 There is at least one member, one person
8 who posted who suggested that they might make some
9 overt action that might have repercussions to the
10 complainant, and that causes us concern, and again,
11 we accept the threat, if that's what it was, as--
12 should be taken as genuine and can't be dismissed
13 by the panel at this point.

14 And that engages the issue of safety of the
15 witnesses that is set out in the section of the Act
16 that applies. And so what we need to do in the
17 circumstances is weigh the public interest in
18 attending and having an open process against the
19 public's equal interest in having witnesses be able
20 to present their evidence in an unfettered way
21 without fear of repercussion.

22 And my view is that where there is a sort
23 of substantiated suggestion that there might be
24 repercussions, that pushes it into the realm of
25 outweighing the public interest in attending

1 generally, and in -- favours the interest of the
2 witness that -- or witnesses in being able to
3 attend a hearing at which their name and
4 identifying details will be disclosed without fear
5 that that will go out further into the social media
6 realm that has already been the case.

7 Certainly the panel would not want this
8 hearing to be an instrument of further fear of
9 repercussion on the part of the witnesses. So our
10 view is that that outweighs the general right of
11 the public to be present, and that that right to be
12 aware of what happens in the proceedings will be
13 addressed to some extent by reasons of the panel in
14 due course as to the outcome, which will – as Mr.
15 Doolittle fully set out, will address everything
16 that's said by each party in the process and the
17 panel's decision.

18 I should add that those reasons generally
19 under the Act are required not to disclose the
20 complainant's or witnesses' names, they are
21 routinely excluded, as part of that process, except
22 we're doing it at an earlier stage of the
23 proceedings so that the complainant's and the
24 witnesses' names are not able to be shared outside
25 the hearing process.

1 I will say I think Mr. Doolittle asked for
2 an order that the publish -- the witnesses' names
3 not be published or any information that would end
4 to identify them not be published, and so, you
5 know, that goes in the reasons without saying, but
6 as far as anyone in attendance at the hearing at
7 this time is concerned, including parties, there is
8 an order that the complainant's name not be
9 published, nor the names of any witnesses, nor any
10 information that would tend to identify them not be
11 published beyond what happens in this hearing.

12 So for instance, social media posts may--
13 we're not going to stop you from making those, Dr.
14 Posnikoff, but please don't include the
15 complainant's or witnesses' names in any post that
16 you may decide to make.

(END OF EXCERPT)

This Order is made this 23rd, day of June, 2025.

Carol Baird Ellan

Carol Baird Ellan K.C.
Chair of the Panel

Al Runnells

Dr. Al Runnells

Ian Welch

Dr. Ian Welch