

DECISION OF THE HEARING COMMITTEE

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

IN THE MATTER OF: The *Pharmacy Act*, R.S.N.S. 2011, c.55 and Regulations
made thereunder

-and-

IN THE MATTER OF: Ms. Connie Gault, Pharmacist, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In the matter of: Recommendation of the Investigation Committee for acceptance of the Settlement Agreement between the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists and Ms. Connie Gault.

The Hearing Committee met on October 6, 2022, to consider the proposed Settlement Agreement being recommended for acceptance by the Investigation Committee regarding Ms. Connie Gault. The meeting was held via an online videoconference platform.

After careful review of the proposed Settlement Agreement (attached), information from Counsel for the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists and Counsel for Ms. Connie Gault, and relevant precedents, the Hearing Committee has decided to accept the recommendation of the Investigation Committee regarding the Settlement Agreement between the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists and Ms. Connie Gault.

October 6, 2022



Harriet Davies (Chair), Pharmacist

On behalf of Hearing Committee Members:
Edith Menzies, Public Representative
Ellen Purves, Pharmacist

attachment

**PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA
HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

IN THE MATTER OF: The *Pharmacy Act*, R.S.N.S. 2011, c.55 and Regulations made thereunder.

-and-

IN THE MATTER OF: Ms. Connie Gault, Pharmacist, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS a complaint dated November 24, 2021, was filed against Connie Gault with the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists (the “College”) pursuant to the *Pharmacy Act*, R.S.N.S. 2011, C.55 and the Regulations made thereunder.

AND WHEREAS the College and Ms. Gault believe that a Settlement Agreement is the proper method of disposing of this matter.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Ms. Gault obtained a pharmacist licence from the College in 1988. From September 2014 until July 2020, she was the pharmacy manager at the Sobeys pharmacy in Truro, Nova Scotia.
2. From 2015 to 2020, Ms. Gault engaged in 27 incidents of unauthorized prescribing for her family and pet, eight of which were for conditions not approved by Council, all contrary to the *Pharmacy Act* (32(2)(a)), the *Pharmacist Drug Prescribing Regulations* (3(2)), the *Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs* (1.3), and the *Code of Ethics* (VII). None of the prescriptions involved narcotic, controlled, or targeted substances.
3. On her own accord, following receipt of the complaint, Ms. Gault completed a Workplace Ethics Training Class.

ADMISSIONS

4. Ms. Gault admits the facts set out in the Statement of Facts and admits that her actions constitute professional misconduct, pursuant to Section 2(at) of the *Pharmacy Act*, in that she prescribed medications for her family members and pet.

DISPOSITION

5. The College and Ms. Gault agree to the following disposition and settlement of this matter:

- a) A letter of reprimand shall be placed on the file of Ms. Gault. The reprimand shall read as follows:

That Ms. Gault breached the *Pharmacy Act* (32(2)(a)), the *Pharmacist Drug Prescribing Regulations* (3(2)), the *Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs* (1.3), and the *Code of Ethics* (VII) by prescribing medications for her family members and pet.

- b) The licence of Ms. Gault to practise pharmacy in Nova Scotia shall be suspended for a period of one month. The period of suspension will begin on an agreed upon date within six months of the date of this Settlement Agreement.
- c) Ms. Gault shall pay a fine of \$1,500.00 to the College within three months of the date of this Settlement Agreement.
- d) Ms. Gault shall pay a portion of the College's costs for this matter to the College, fixed at the amount of \$2,000.00, within six months of date of this Settlement Agreement.
- e) The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be made public, including publication of Ms. Gault's name and the facts and details of the Settlement Agreement, in accordance with the *Registration, Licensing and Professional Accountability Regulations*, Section 71.

EFFECTIVE DATE

6. This Settlement Agreement shall not be effective unless approved by the Hearing Committee of the College. If approved by the Hearing Committee, the date of approval shall be the date of this Settlement Agreement.

The Investigation Committee of the College and Ms. Gault agree that this Settlement Agreement shall be put to a Hearing Committee of the College for its review, with a recommendation from the Investigation Committee that it be accepted, pursuant to section 69(1) of the *Registration, Licensing and Professional Accountability Regulations*.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 6 day of October, 2022.



Beverley Zwicker, CEO and Registrar, NSCP



Connie Gault, Registrant # 1042

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerri Allen".

Gerri Allen, Chair, Investigation Committee