

**IN THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT OF ALLEGED UNJUST  
DISMISSAL UNDER DIVISION XIV - PART III, SECTION 240 OF THE  
*CANADA LABOUR CODE*, R.S.C. 1985, c. L-2**

**BETWEEN:**

**WADE M. COLDWELL,**

**COMPLAINANT,**

**AND:**

**CHIEF LITTLE PINE SCHOOL, PAYNTON, SK,**

**RESPONDENT.**

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**ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION**  
May 11, 2015

**T. F. (TED) KOSKIE, B.Sc., J.D.**

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**Representatives:** Dave Anderson for the Complainant, Wade M. Coldwell

Anita Johnstone for the Respondent, Chief Little Pine School, Paynton,  
SK

[1] Wade M. Coldwell (“Coldwell”) lodged a complaint (the “Complaint”) pursuant to section 240 of the *Canada Labour Code*,<sup>1</sup> Part III (the “Code”) alleging that Chief Little Pine School, Paynton, SK (“CLPS”) unjustly dismissed him from his employment on June 30, 2014.

[2] CLPS says it had just cause to dismiss Coldwell.

[3] The Minister of Labour (Canada) appointed me to hear and determine the Complaint.

[4] The relevant provisions of the *Code* are:

***Complaint to inspector for unjust dismissal***

240(1) Subject to subsections (2) and 242(3.1), any person

- (a) who has completed twelve consecutive months of continuous employment by an employer, and
- (b) who is not a member of a group of employees subject to a collective agreement,

may make a complaint in writing to an inspector if the employee has been dismissed and considers the dismissal to be unjust.

***Time for making complaint***

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a complaint under subsection (1) shall be made within ninety days from the date on which the person making the complaint was dismissed.

***Extension of time***

(3) The Minister may extend the period of time referred to in subsection (2) where the Minister is satisfied that a complaint was made in that period to a government official who had no authority to deal with the complaint but that the person making the complaint believed the official had that authority.

...

***Reference to adjudicator***

242(1) The Minister may, on receipt of a report pursuant to subsection 241(3), appoint any person that the Minister considers appropriate as an adjudicator to hear and adjudicate on the complaint in respect of which the report was made, and refer the complaint to the adjudicator along with any statement provided pursuant to subsection 241(1).

***Powers of adjudicator***

- (2) An adjudicator to whom a complaint has been referred under subsection (1)
  - (a) shall consider the complaint within such time as the Governor in Council may by

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<sup>1</sup>RSC 1985, c L-2

regulation prescribe;

- (b) shall determine the procedure to be followed, but shall give full opportunity to the parties to the complaint to present evidence and make submissions to the adjudicator and shall consider the information relating to the complaint; and
- (c) has, in relation to any complaint before the adjudicator, the powers conferred on the Canada Industrial Relations Board, in relation to any proceeding before the Board, under paragraphs 16(a), (b) and (c).

***Decision of adjudicator***

- (3) Subject to subsection (3.1), an adjudicator to whom a complaint has been referred under subsection (1) shall
  - (a) consider whether the dismissal of the person who made the complaint was unjust and render a decision thereon; and
  - (b) send a copy of the decision with the reasons therefor to each party to the complaint and to the Minister.

***Limitation on complaints***

- (3.1) No complaint shall be considered by an adjudicator under subsection (3) in respect of a person where
  - (a) that person has been laid off because of lack of work or because of the discontinuance of a function; or
  - (b) a procedure for redress has been provided elsewhere in or under this or any other Act of Parliament.

***Where unjust dismissal***

- (4) Where an adjudicator decides pursuant to subsection (3) that a person has been unjustly dismissed, the adjudicator may, by order, require the employer who dismissed the person to
  - (a) pay the person compensation not exceeding the amount of money that is equivalent to the remuneration that would, but for the dismissal, have been paid by the employer to the person;
  - (b) reinstate the person in his employ; and
  - (c) do any other like thing that it is equitable to require the employer to do in order to remedy or counteract any consequence of the dismissal.

[5] I scheduled the hearing of the Complaint for May 11 to 12, 2015.

[6] After commencement of the hearing on May 11, 2015, Coldwell and CLPS expressed a desire to try to mediate their dispute with me acting as the mediator. They agreed that if they could not resolve the dispute, then I would proceed, as adjudicator, to hear and determine the

Complaint. I explained that if I did proceed with the adjudication, I would make my decision based only on evidence presented in the hearing and not on any confidential or other information received while acting as a mediator. Coldwell and CLPS understood and were comfortable with that.

[7] Coldwell and CLPS negotiated a settlement of the Complaint. The terms of same are as follows:

- a) CLPS admits Coldwell has been unjustly dismissed;
- b) CLPS will forthwith pay Coldwell fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00), it being understood that CLPS will subtract and remit therefrom all lawful deductions; and
- c) neither party be responsible for the other party's costs.

They consented to an order issuing that reflected same.

[8] Because of the above, I:

- a) find Coldwell has been unjustly dismissed;
- b) order CLPS to forthwith pay Coldwell fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00), it being understood that CLPS will subtract and remit therefrom all lawful deductions; and
- c) order there shall be no award of costs in favour of either party.

Dated at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on May 11, 2015.

  
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T. F. (TED)KOSKIE, B.Sc., J.D.,  
ADJUDICATOR