

# Nova Scotia Regulator of Paramedicine

## Consent Reprimand

FRANCIS, MICHAEL DEAN

Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia  
NSRoP Registration Number: 13294

On September 11, 2024, the Complaints Committee of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Paramedicine (NSRoP) ordered, pursuant to section 84(1)(f) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*, and with the consent of Mr. Francis, that he receive a reprimand for engaging in conduct unbecoming the profession.

### *The Complaint*

A Registrar's complaint was filed against Mr. Francis based on his self-report that he had been charged with criminal offences related to an incident on or about September 8, 2022. On August 23, 2023, Mr. Francis pleaded guilty to seven counts of being in possession of firearms while he was prohibited from doing so. On January 11, 2024, he was sentenced on these counts.

### *Background*

In February 2013, Mr. Francis had been found guilty of previous offences for which he received a firearms prohibition until 2023. He was still subject to that probation when police, responding to a report from a member of the public, discovered several firearms at his residence. Mr. Francis indicated that the firearms were temporarily stored at his residence on behalf of another individual and that he had no physical access to them at the time, and therefore he did not believe he was in "possession" of them. He stated that he did not intend to deceive anyone.

In 2019, Mr. Francis was the subject of a College of Paramedics of Nova Scotia (as it was then known) Registration Committee decision. Mr. Francis answered "no" with respect to a judicial question regarding whether he had ever been convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or found guilty of a criminal offence. While the offences in 2013 did not result in a "conviction," they were findings of guilt; therefore, Mr. Francis provided incorrect information on his application for registration and licensing which raised a concern regarding whether he satisfied the good character requirement for licensure. Ultimately, the Registration Committee granted Mr. Francis' application for registration and licensing; however, they determined that he made a

misrepresentation in his application and was not forthcoming when asked to provide additional information.

### *Reasons for the Decision*

The Committee noted that Mr. Francis did not deny that he was aware that he was prohibited from possessing firearms at the relevant time. Despite pleading guilty to seven counts, he failed to take full accountability for his conduct, suggesting that he misunderstood the requirements of the prohibition order. The Committee noted that this was similar to the explanation he offered to the Registration Committee, suggesting that he misunderstood the application question. It did not appear in either case that Mr. Francis took reasonable steps to confirm the accuracy of his interpretations.

The most recent charges related to breaching a previous criminal order. It was understood that many individuals in Mr. Francis' community are aware that he is a paramedic. The Committee was satisfied that his conduct brought the profession into disrepute and breached a number of provisions of the *Code of Ethics* and the *Standards of Practice*, including, *inter alia*, those related to maintaining good character and reputation, and maintaining high standards of personal and professional conduct.

The Committee determined that under these circumstances, Mr. Francis' breach of the *Code of Ethics* and *Standards of Practice* was disgraceful and dishonourable, and that there is sufficient evidence that, if proven, would constitute conduct unbecoming the profession and warrants imposing a licensing sanction. The Committee therefore determined that a reprimand was the appropriate outcome in this situation.

On November 22, 2024, Mr. Francis consented to the reprimand.