



Vancouver pastor awarded \$84,520 for 'insensitive' dismissal

BY KEITH FRASER, THE PROVINCE AUGUST 5, 2015

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Rev. Alfred Yiu Chuen Kong was hired by the Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church (pictured) and started working as senior pastor on Jan. 1, 2011. On Oct. 4, 2013, the church terminated him and offered him six months pay in lieu of notice.

Photograph by: actsofvsbc.com , Internet photo

A former senior pastor of one of the Lower Mainland's largest Christian churches has been awarded more than \$84,520 after he was fired in an "unduly insensitive" manner.

Rev. Alfred Yiu Chuen Kong was hired by the **Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church** and started working as senior pastor on Jan. 1, 2011.

On Oct. 4, 2013, the church terminated him and offered him six months pay in lieu of notice.

Kong, who came to Vancouver from Hong Kong with his wife, argued in court that his pay in lieu of notice should be 12 to 18 months and that he should get \$30,000 as aggravated damages and another \$30,000 for punitive damages.

In a ruling released last month, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Gordon Funt awarded him 12 months pay in lieu of notice, amounting to \$54,520. The judge awarded him an additional \$30,000 for aggravated damages for the insensitive manner of the termination, but declined to award punitive damages.

"The circulation of unproven allegations attacking the social and spiritual worth of Rev. Kong to the (church) membership, and to a lesser degree to pastors from representative associations, was unduly insensitive," said the judge. "The 21 documents made available to (the church's) congregation contained many unproven allegations and innuendo directed at Rev. Kong's character."

Kong claimed that he suffered embarrassment and humiliation following his termination and alleged his privacy was breached by release of a confidential letter he sent to the church personnel committee complaining of unfair treatment.

The termination happened after difficulties arose between Kong and two associate pastors, involving management and communications issues, court heard.

About 100 members of the church, which has a formal membership of 800, left the church following Kong's termination.

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