

Year in prison. Female hockey coach sentenced for sexually abusing girl

A Kamloops hockey coach who sexually abused a player has been sentenced to 12 months in jail.

Heidi Ferber, an assistant hockey coach for a Minor Hockey Association girls' team, pleaded guilty to sexual interference of a person under 16 and sexual exploitation.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Hope Hyslop also sentenced Ferber to 18 months' probation, required her to be registered as a sex offender for 20 years and to undergo a psychiatric assessment.

Hyslop said Wednesday that while she believes Ferber is now remorseful, the coach knew her actions between the fall of 2010 and late 2011 were wrong, adding the coach

encouraged the girl not to tell anyone.

Court heard that in 2011 the girl wrote a poem containing suicidal references. In early 2012, she told her mother what was going on.

A pre-sentence report found Ferber has little remorse and blames the girl.

On Wednesday, Ferber made a tearful apology.

"I made some huge mistakes I can't change," she said. "There's ripples that will go on for a long time."

The Crown was seeking nine to 12 months behind bars, while Ferber's defence lawyer wanted a sentence of six months to be served on weekends. **CHNL/KAMLOOPS THIS WEEK/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Serial offender. Man who drives without a licence guilty of killing woman

A Kamloops man who has never held a driver's licence but has been busted behind the wheel five times in the last three years has been convicted of killing a pedestrian.

Donald Isadore, 63, was found guilty Tuesday of one count of failing to yield to a pedestrian stemming from the death of a woman who was walking at a crosswalk in 2012.

A police officer testified 66-year-old Valerie Brook's body was thrown up to 9.5 metres.

Lawyers will return to court on April 10 to set a date for sentencing, which will likely take place in June.

Less than three weeks before Brook was killed, Isadore

Impact

"I think we're all still so blown away that we're not going to get any closure."

Loralie Loewen, the victim's daughter

was handed a 30-day jail term and fined \$500 for a separate driving conviction. In 2011, he was jailed for 14 days for another driving conviction.

And, following the judge's decision this week, Isadore pleaded guilty to two additional charges stemming from incidents in January — weeks after Brook was killed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Engagement, a sculpture by artist Dennis Oppenheim, at English Bay. On Wednesday, the city passed 19 recommendations to help get Vancouverites more engaged in civic life. **JENNIFER CAUTHIER/METRO FILE**

'Do you want to get engaged?' city asks

Civic participation. Council approves plan to help citizens vote easier, feel welcome

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Vancouverites are cynical about city decisions, terrified to speak at city hall and unlikely to vote in municipal elections.

Oh, and they're lonely. But the city hopes to fix

these problems with a plan featuring 19 recommendations from the Engaged City Task Force, approved unanimously by council Wednesday.

"There's an enormous amount of mistrust," task-force member Lyndsay Poaps told council in a presentation on the plan, which includes suggestions to welcome new immigrants and an idea for a neighbourhood block-party day.

"Without some of these pieces we recommend, I think it will just get worse," she said.

Origin

The process to improve engagement was created after a Vancouver Foundation report described citizens as socially isolated and lonely.

Based on reaction to the task force itself — some criticized it for not inviting neighbourhood associations to participate and accused it of holding all its meetings behind closed doors — it was clear distrust is alive and well. Part of the problem stems

from the low voter turnout of 35 per cent, giving residents the sense that local government doesn't accurately represent them, council heard from task-force members.

One of the task force's most ambitious goals is to increase voter turnout to 75 per cent with an aggressive campaign that includes working with universities to get young people to the ballots and making voter registration easier.

Staff will report back on next steps to carry out the plan, how much it will cost and how to measure citizen engagement going forward.



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