

October 5, 2023

## **Election Administrator's Decision**

Decision# 2023/B/8

The attached complaint met the requirements of an official complaint under the CSU regulations. I received nine other complaints from students who wish to remain anonymous and who made similar allegations against the same candidate.

The complainant alleges that a person approached her and pressured her to vote for candidate Gurjot Singh then and there. The other complaints I received allege that Gurjot Singh, and others on his behalf, were acting in an intimidating manner, demanding that students vote for Mr. Singh in their presence, and taking electors phones and voting for them.

The alleged activities took place in and around the cafeteria, library, and CSU Library Lounge on October 3 and 4. In addition to the complainants, I communicated with several non-complainant witnesses who report similar behaviour. Some provided photographs or videos of Mr. Singh or his supporters handling students' phones and then handing them back.

At my request campus security reviewed the security camera record and found footage of Mr. Singh and an associate approach a student in the library on October 4. Mr. Singh sat down and talked the student for a few minutes while his associate stood over them. Mr. Singh then stood up and walked away, following which his associate took the students phone and worked on it for about one minute before handing it back, shaking the student's hand and walking away. The student looked decidedly uncomfortable throughout these events.

I wrote to Gurjot Singh and he denied all wrongdoing. He suggested that the complainants were part of a conspiracy against him. He conceded that he may have had other people's phones in his hands, but that was likely to add his contact information.

Anonymous complaints should always be treated with caution. Among other things, anonymity means that I cannot share the specifics of the complaints with Mr. Singh so that he can give his version of events. In this case, however, the large number of similar complaints, the testimony of the non-complainant witnesses, and security camera footage together form a persuasive body of evidence.

CSU Procedure BD-06.1 includes the following provision on page 7:

- E. Applying pressure, encouragement, or a requirement for a voter to cast an electronic vote in the presence of a candidate, or passing around devices upon which a voter is pressured, encouraged, or required to vote, with a violation of this prohibition always deemed a serious offence;

The rule was strongly emphasized in the candidate orientation that Mr. Singh attended.

Further, CSU Procedure BD-06.1 states on page 6:

### C. Campaigners

1. A candidate may enlist members of the Capilano Students' Union to work on their election campaign, provided that a list of the candidate's campaigners, including campaigners' names, contact details, and student numbers is provided to the elections administrator before the campaign and whenever the list changes.

...

3. A candidate is responsible for the conduct of everyone working their campaign, and any offence committed by a campaigner is an offence by the candidate.

Although candidate Singh did not register any campaigners, I am convinced that a number of his supporters have been actively and aggressively campaigning for him. He is responsible for the misconduct of these people campaigning on his behalf.

In light of all the evidence, I am convinced that candidate Singh and his supporters engaged in aggressive and intimidating campaigning, pressured electors to vote in front of them, and, on more than one occasion, took electors' phones in their hands and voted for them. These are serious violations that affect the fairness of the election and the legitimacy of the process. For these reasons, candidate Singh is hereby disqualified.

The respondent has 48 hours from the time they receive this decision to submit an appeal in the manner set forth in CSU Procedure BD-06.1.



David Ennis  
CSU Election Administrator

## ANNEX 1 – OFFICIAL COMPLAINT

# CSU Election Complaint Template

**Submitted:**

October 4, 2023 · 14:03

**Your full name:**

Niko O Williamson

**Capilano University email address:**

nikowilliamson@capilanou.ca

**What is the nature of your complaint?**

I have an official election complaint

## Candidate Complaint

*This area may be blank if not applicable.*

**When did you learn about the issue you are complaining about?**

Oct 4, 2023

**Are you a candidate, student, or other?**

Student

**Name of the person(s) you are complaining about.**

Gurjot Singh

**Names and contact details (email address and/or telephone number) of any witness who can verify your complaint:**

Niko Williamson

**Description of the issue in question:**

A friend of Gurjot tried to pressure me to pull out my phone and vote for Gurjot in front of him. I have heard other similar incidents of Gurjots friends pressuring students to vote in front of them. Many students do not realize this is a rule violation and I am encouraging them to submit their own complaints.

**Upload any evidence you may have here:**

**How would you like the issue to be resolved?**

if there are multiple similar complaints, disqualification.

**Do you wish to remain anonymous?:**

No, I understand that my identity will be published with my complaint