



K. P. Wee <kp.wee.is@gmail.com>

Re: NNC Complaint Submission from KP Wee, re: Richmond News

Cara Sabatini <csabatini@mediacouncil.ca>

Fri, Apr 8, 2022 at 2:40 PM

To: kp.wee.is@gmail.com

Cc: eedmonds@richmond-news.com, Brent Jolly <bjolly@mediacouncil.ca>, John Fraser <jfraser@mediacouncil.ca>

Dear KP Wee,

Thank you for contacting the National NewsMedia Council with your concern about appropriate attribution of a March 19 article published by the Richmond News.

The National NewsMedia Council deals with unresolved complaints about journalistic standards and ethics in news and opinion articles published by our member news organizations. The NNC promotes widely accepted journalistic standards including accuracy, context and opportunity to respond to allegations and harmful statements.

For general information, we would note that it is reasonable to allow several business days for a news organization to address your concerns. Further, the NNC does not compel apologies nor does it monitor the communications of journalists.

Standard journalistic practice calls for providing appropriate credit on published content, including photographs and articles. In rare cases where mistakes occur, it is standard practice to correct the error promptly and in a consistent manner.

In this case, we understand you contacted the news organization on a Saturday, and that the change was made the following day. It is the view of the NNC that the news organization addressed the issue in a prompt and appropriate manner.

As the article has been updated with the correct byline, the NNC finds no grounds to support a complaint about an attribution error and considers this matter resolved.

The news organization has been copied on this correspondence as a courtesy.

Kind regards,
Cara Sabatini

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Cara Sabatini | Dispute Resolution

National NewsMedia Council

37 Front Street East, Suite 200 | Toronto | Ontario M5E 1B3 | 416.340.1981

On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 5:59 PM National NewsMedia Council

<bjolly@mediacouncil.ca> wrote:

1. Information about you

Name

KP Wee

2. Information about the complaint

Media Name

Richmond News

Journalist

Alan Campbell

Publication date

03/19/2022

Article headline / link

Richmond-based Canadians advance to round two of playoffs

3. What is your complaint?

Complaint summary

I was the person who wrote this article on March 14, 2022, for the Greater Vancouver Canadians which then was posted on the Richmond News website five days later, but the Richmond News used "Alan Campbell" as the byline. The Richmond News copied and pasted everything verbatim except one line was removed and some words like "Richmond-based" were added.

I consulted with two acquaintances familiar with the media industry. I was told that even if Alan Campbell and/or Richmond News received the story from someone on the Greater Vancouver Canadians hockey team, then the byline would not say "Alan Campbell" but would be "Staff Writer." There was no credit to the hockey team given.

I contacted Alan on March 19, upon seeing the article on the Richmond News site. I explained I was the writer and would like to be credited. Alan responded saying he would deal with it "asap."

Six hours passed and nothing had changed, so I emailed Alan again and CC'ed the editor (Eve Edmonds) and what appeared to be the organization management (Alvin Chow), but nobody except Alan responded, and he was not friendly in his tone. The next day, the change was made and the byline was made to show my name (although I am not affiliated with Richmond News).

I have to wonder if this sort of dishonesty happens all the time? If I did not see the article that was on the Richmond News, I would not have known that Alan Campbell simply ripped my article off and presented it as his own.

Also unsettling is the fact he was not friendly in his tone in his second email to me (nor was he apologetic), and the fact that nobody else from Richmond News bothered to respond.

File

- [My-story-on-the-Greater-Vancouver-Canadians-website.pdf](#)

4. Who did you contact at the news media organization?

Name of person contacted

Eve Edmonds (editor), Alvin Chow (publisher), Alan Campbell ('writer')

Date

03/19/2022

Result of that process

Alan responded that he would fix the problem "asap" and my name was shown in the byline on March 20, 2022. However, Eve and Alvin failed to respond at all. I do not find this to be satisfactory as I was not even given an apology. Also, I do not even know if this happens all the time (ie. taking other people's work and presenting it as their own), which I suspect happens based on what occurred with my story.

5. Submit Complaint

Consent to collection and use of personal information

- Yes

Acceptance of Agreement

- I Accept