

# Canadian Non-transparency

Former Canadian overseer Walter Burkinshaw has multiple allegations of child sex abuse.

This post contains two letters:

- A 2020 letter in which Burkinshaw admits to ‘handling of a little girl’ which was actually **sexually abusing the little girl**.
- A March 2021 letter from current British Columbia overseer Merlin Affleck to his staff regarding allegations against Walter Burkinshaw and Aaron Farough, a former worker who was later convicted on child pornography charges.

Burkinshaw’s letter minimizes and downplays the abuse he admitted to, framing his crimes in a way that shifts attention away from the harm done to the victim and toward his own desire for forgiveness and reassurance. The letter also includes a subtle warning about defamation, even though defamation applies only to false statements.

Affleck’s letter claims that “it is important to be open, honest, and transparent,” yet Affleck immediately restricts sharing and scripting. He does not mention that Burkinshaw admitted to abusing a little girl. Instead, he distances himself and the church by leaving accountability measures with government agencies. He expresses no apology or care and concern for the victims and again leaves that to the government.

Walter Burkinshaw and Aaron Farough are still in meetings with no apparent restrictions or measures in place to keep children safe.

Merlin Affleck remains the current overseer of British Columbia even though an allegation of child sexual abuse was reported against him to law enforcement in Canada as well as to the FBI.

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**From:** Walter <walt.burk@ >  
**Sent:** , 2020  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Past & present

Dear ;

Not long ago Merlin Affleck came our way for a visit and it has prompted me to send this line your way. I understand expressed some grievance concerning my association with back about years when . I do recall and lament handling of the girl ( then a little girl ) and it seems she has memories that trouble her. I repeat, it was just the handling of the girl - nothing more - but I'm very sorry to have to acknowledge those questionable actions. I believe made mention of this to you and ( to whom I have also written), when you were . I have expressed apology to - and also sought to communicate the same to - ( ) - but she was not receptive. There seems little more I can do at this point.

Recently a man of the home where we were staying returned thanks for the supper meal and I appreciated his expressions of gratitude - for many gifts and provisions - even the provision of forgiveness covering error of the past and of the present. I have to remember Peter's tears of repentance after he earnestly denied association with Jesus even resorting to profanity. And Peter proved to be useful and loyal in the future though he had erred. It seems most all of us have need of the pardon God, from our brethren, and sisters. I do acknowledge errors in my past - and trust you are a gracious sister - not interested in defamation. I would appreciate your response - to even this letter - if you can bring yourself communicate.

Kind greetings; Walter

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March 6, 2021

Dear fellow workers.

Please share one copy of this letter with each elder in your field.

It is important to be open, honest, and transparent regarding the recent occurrences of negative impact that have evolved in the past while. Please ask the elders not to make copies of this letter or forward it digitally but if anyone comes to them with concerns they can discuss it verbally. To avoid speculation these matters to which we refer pertain to the actions of Walter and Aaron only. In disseminating this Information, strive to use the language as it is written herein. While each have a right to know the facts, discretion must be exercised as these matters are now under investigation by the appropriate legal authorities and we all have a legal obligation not to interfere with the process. The following Information can be shared.

### Currently

- Allegations against Walter involving children are being investigated by the appropriate legal authorities and he is willingly cooperating.
- Allegations against Aaron concerning the viewing of child pornography are in the hands of legal authorities.
- Both men have been removed from the Worker's List and will not be involved in any Gospel work.
- Walter resides in a private senior home in Wainwright, Alberta.
- Aaron working as an electrician and resides with his parents in FSJ
- The law provides excellent provisions to ensure the safety of all children.

### Moving Forward

- All BC Staff are enrolled in a Sexual Abuse Awareness Education course.
- The BC Staff will be educated and understand the contents of BC Child Protection laws.
- All workers in BC will be provided with the [Worker's Code of Conduct](#), and will read it, understand it, and adhere to it fully and completely. This policy will be reviewed annually.
- All workers will be issued a copy of the [Child Safe Policy](#).
- Any victims will be encouraged to seek help from the appropriate Provincial authorities.
- All BC staff will report any suspected child abuse to the appropriate authorities.

We appreciate your understanding and help in this matter and as further factual information comes to bear; we will update our lines of communication.

Sincerely, Paul & Merlin

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### WINGS Note:

“...recent occurrences of a negative impact...” are actually cases of **criminal Child Sexual Abuse**.

Being 'open, honest and transparent' is not achieved by requesting the letter to not be copied or forwarded.

**Previous posts:**

<https://wingsfortruth.info/2023/05/28/emails-to-from-merlin-affleck-and-michael-hassett-re-burkinshaw-and-mcchesney-allegations/>

<https://wingsfortruth.info/2023/04/09/merlin-affleck-letter-re-walter-burkinshaw-and-aaron-farough-march-2021/>