

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
(the Committee)**

Information about the complaints process and the Committee is available at:
<https://www.cpso.on.ca/Public/Services/Complaints>

Dr. Andreas Philip Freitag (CPSO #55335)

INTRODUCTION

The College received information raising concerns about Dr. Freitag's professionalism in terms of comments he posted to social media. Subsequently, the Committee approved the Registrar's appointment of investigators to review this matter.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of December 12, 2018. The Committee required Dr. Freitag to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to unprofessional language and opinions used in social media posts that are unacceptable to the medical profession. The Committee also requested that Dr. Freitag review and be prepared to discuss with the panel at the caution the sections on "Collegiality" and "Social Media—Appropriate Use by Physicians" from the CPSO publication *The Practice Guide*, as well as CPSO Policy Statement #3-16, *Physician Behaviour in the Professional Environment*.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

Consistent with prior, similar concerns about other physicians, the Committee determined that it would be appropriate to caution Dr. Freitag regarding his actions in posting offensive comments to social media. In issuing its caution, the Committee's intention is to denounce irresponsible, unprofessional behaviour and to emphasize that physicians have obligations both to the profession and to the public to use social media in a responsible and professional way.