

An additional day for this hearing took place virtually on August 29, 2024. Further days may be scheduled pending a decision of the hearing committee.

In the Matter of

The *FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT*

(RSBC 1996, c. 141)

(the “Act”)

and

The *INSURANCE COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA*

(“Council”)

and

HONG WEI (WINNIE) LIAO

(the “Licensee”)

NOTICE OF HEARING

WHEREAS on November 7–10, 2023, a hearing committee of Council conducted a hearing in which the Licensee was a respondent (the “November Hearing”);

WHEREAS at the November Hearing, the Licensee testified that she had a Master of Business Administration Degree (“MBA”) from Canada and in support of this testimony tendered a diploma and transcript purportedly from York University (the “York Documents”);

WHEREAS on May 29, 2024, Council made an intended order pursuant to section 231(1) of the Act cancelling the Licensee’s license following an investigation into the question of whether, by giving the above evidence and tendering the York Documents before the hearing committee at the November Hearing, the Licensee breached Council’s Code of Conduct and Council Rules (the “Order”);

WHEREAS also on May 29, 2024, Council imposed the Order without giving the Licensee an opportunity to be heard pursuant to s. 238(1) of the Act;

WHEREAS also on May 29, 2024, Council provided the Licensee with written reasons for the Order, pursuant to section 238(1)(c) of the Act (the “Reasons for Decision”);

WHEREAS on May 31, 2024, the Licensee requested a hearing before Council to dispute the Order, pursuant to section 238(2)(a) of the Act;

TAKE NOTICE that Council will hold a hearing on Monday, July 22, 2024, through Friday, July 26, 2024, commencing on each day at **9:30 a.m.**, at Veritext Court Reporting, 700-925 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, to determine:

1. Whether, in relation to the York Documents and her testimony at the November Hearing, the Licensee breached section 3 (Trustworthiness), or section 4 (Good Faith), or section 12 (Dealing with Council) of Council's Code of Conduct; or Council Rule 7(8), by:

(a) attempting to mislead the hearing committee of Council (the "Hearing Committee") by testifying that she had an MBA from Canada, which was untrue, and supporting that testimony by tendering the York Documents which were forged or fake and which the Licensee knew were forged or fake;

(b) in the alternative, tendering the York Documents in support of her testimony that she had an MBA from Canada, and doing so recklessly or with willful blindness to the fact that the York Documents were forged or fake, aware that this could mislead the Hearing Committee. Further particulars of this allegation are:

- i. the Licensee never attended York University;
- ii. the Licensee was not given the York Documents by York University;
- iii. the Licensee received the York Documents from an individual to whom the Licensee paid money in exchange for them;
- iv. the Licensee never completed the courses listed in the York University transcript;
- v. the Licensee did not advise the Hearing Committee of any of the facts set out in paragraphs (i) to (iv) above; and
- vi. the Licensee was aware of the facts set out above in paragraphs (i) to (iv) and was aware of the need for inquiry to verify that the York Documents were authentic and legitimate, but made no or insufficient inquiry to determine whether they were authentic and legitimate before giving evidence to the Hearing Committee that she, in fact, had an MBA from Canada and before tendering the York Documents in support of that testimony.

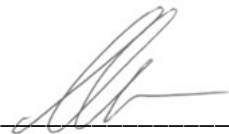
2. Whether the Council should confirm, revoke or vary the Order including whether Council should do one or more of the following in accordance with sections 231, 236 and 241.1 of the Act:

- (a) reprimand the Licensee;

- (b) suspend or cancel the life and accident and sickness insurance licence (LIC-178908C124450R1) of the Licensee;
- (c) fine the Licensee an amount not more than \$25,000;
- (d) impose conditions on the Licensee's life and accident and sickness insurance licence;
- (e) require the Licensee to cease any specified activity related to the conduct of insurance business or to carry out any specified activity related to the conduct of insurance business;
- (f) require the Licensee to pay the costs, or part of the costs, of Council's investigation and/or of this hearing; or
- (g) take any other measures that Council deems appropriate.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT the Licensee may be represented by legal counsel at the hearing, make submissions and lead evidence. Failure to attend the hearing may result in Council making a determination in the Licensee's absence. Council is required, in accordance with section 239 of the Act, to have its hearings open to the public. As such, if any member of the public is interested in attending this hearing, please contact Council's staff lawyer Kelvin Lai at kelai@insurancecouncilofbc.com for information on how to do so.

Dated at Vancouver, British Columbia on the **26th day of June, 2024.**



Glen Ewan, K.C., Chair of the Hearing Committee
Insurance Council of British Columbia

cc. Hong Wei (Winnie) Liao
c/o Hunter Litigation Chambers, Attention: William B. Smart, K.C.
Andrew D. Gay, K.C., counsel for the Insurance Council of British Columbia