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# Peace activist awarded more than \$50,000 in wrongful-dismissal suit

**JUDGMENT: Lynn Hainsworth got into dispute with board, other executive**

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A peace activist hired as one of two executive directors for the World Peace Forum 2006 — set for June in Vancouver — has been awarded more than \$50,000 for wrongful dismissal.

Lynn Hainsworth, a 55-year-old resident of Saskatchewan and a long-time activist, was hired by the forum in April last year but soon got into a dispute with the forum's board and with Jef Keithley, the other executive director.

In an affidavit filed in court, Hainsworth said tensions grew over work-related issues and she believed that one board member was besmirching her reputation.

After an annual general meeting of the board in October 2005, she says she was asked to take a demotion and report to Keithley.

After taking a weekend to consider the matter, she returned to work, where Keithley "ordered" her into his office and after a discussion, asked her to turn over her keys.

At one point, she says, she was accused of leaking the forum's draft budget and felt "betrayed by Mr. Keithley's words and actions and I was deeply, deeply hurt."

Keithley's affidavit version of the meeting differed significantly from Hainsworth, with Keithley saying that Hainsworth suggested the best solution for her might be a buyout package. He denied that Hainsworth had been dismissed.

In his reasons for judgment, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Warren said the evidence points to a "constructive dismissal" by forum officials.

"Further, whether Mr. Keithley had the authority to dismiss the plaintiff, she believed that he did and that when he asked for her keys she believed she had been fired," he concluded.

The judge ordered that she be awarded \$53,999 for lost income, \$2,800 in vacation pay, special damages for her broken lease and legal costs.

Her lawyer, Dan Gleadle, said his client was "pleased" by the judgment. Keithley could not be reached for comment.

The forum, scheduled for June 23 to 28, is expected to attract several thousand peace activists.

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