



Discipline Hearing Conducted

On 31 May 2001 a panel of the Discipline Committee inquired into the conduct of Elaine Kathleen Fidyk, Diploma 2798, pursuant to Section 54(2) of the *Pharmacists, Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act*.

Ms. Fidyk was convicted under the Criminal Code of defrauding Health Canada from 1996 to 1998 and the British Columbia Ministry of Health from 1998 to 2000. She was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of 20 months, and required to make restitution to the BC Ministry of Finance in the amount of \$13,594.82 and to First Canadian Health Management Corporation Inc. in the amount of \$253,879.97. The fraudulent billing practices included submitting prescriptions for payment that were never dispensed, altering valid prescriptions to obtain reimbursement, and receiving reimbursement for unauthorized or unsubstantiated prescriptions in respect of false billings made on behalf of Ms. Fidyk and her husband.

The Discipline Committee found this conduct to be in contravention of Section 54 of the Act in that Ms. Fidyk used fraud or misrepresentation to obtain



payment or reimbursement for a drug and had been convicted of an offence that is related to the practice of pharmacy.

In determining penalty, the Committee considered that Ms. Fidyk pleaded guilty to all charges and made restitution as ordered by the courts. Ms. Fidyk submitted that she no longer intends to practice pharmacy. Nonetheless, this conduct was undertaken for personal gain, and those actions led to convictions constituting unprofessional conduct.

In light of the fact that Ms. Fidyk has made full restitution of the monies obtained fraudulently, and fulfilled the sentence imposed by the courts, a fine was not assessed. The Panel found the lack of integrity and honesty shown by Ms. Fidyk to reflect badly on the profession of pharmacy as a whole, and her actions to be a serious contravention of the public trust. The penalty indicates the seriousness with which the Panel views her actions.

The penalty assessed was:

1. Ms. Fidyk's registration will be cancelled.
2. Ms. Fidyk will be responsible for the costs and disbursements of these proceedings.



New Pharmacy Practice Centre Lab

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and UBC are pleased to announce that construction has begun on the renovation of the Pharmacy Practice Centre Laboratory.

The new laboratory will provide a unique and modern learning environment for a variety of pharmacy advocates including students learning about pharmacy practice, researchers collecting information from their experiments, and industry making presentations to students.

The facility will feature a sample community pharmacy, expanded treatment modules, a larger and better-equipped problem-based learning area and a teaching/learning centre for small group workshops.

The Pharmacy Practice Centre will be completed in September 2001, with an opening celebration to be held in October with faculty, students, alumni, industry and friends of pharmacy.