

MEDIA RELEASE

TORONTO – January 13, 2009

COURT SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTIONS AGAINST SELWYN HOUSE SCHOOL

Today, the Quebec Superior Court of Justice approved settlement of three sexual abuse class actions against Selwyn House School.

The settlement provides for payment of up to \$5 million to former students who allege they were sexually assaulted by former Selwyn teachers, namely, John Aimers, Leigh Seville and James P. Hill.

The settlement provides for a streamlined, discreet and confidential claims process. In the event a claim is not readily accepted by the school, private arbitration is available to resolve disputed claims.

In addition to approving the settlement, the Court authorized the three proceedings as class actions.

The plaintiffs are represented by Toronto law firm of McPhadden Samac Merner Barry. The firm was also named by the Court as Class Counsel for the claimants.

Commencing immediately, claimants may submit their claims for compensation. Claims are to be submitted through Class Counsel.

The legal proceedings relate to alleged sexual assaults taking place from 1961 to 1991. The first of the proceedings was commenced in 2005 and the other two in 2006.

At the commencement of each of the three actions a pseudonym order was issued, preventing publication of the identities of the representative plaintiffs and the claimants. M.G., the former student who commenced the first action against Selwyn, said: “Approval of the settlement means affected former Selwyn students no longer have to feel shame; they can come forward with their heads held high and receive the compensation they so justly deserve.”

Zoran Samac, of McPhadden Samac Merner Barry, the lawyers acting for the former Selwyn students commented: “Real credit and gratitude is owed to M.G. and the other two representative plaintiffs. They should be congratulated for their heroism and their fortitude; they have been selfless in their perseverance and commitment to this process for all those concerned.”

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