

PRESS RELEASE

August 23, 2006 (Hamilton, Ontario)

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS AND CATERER SETTLE CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT OVER SALMONELLA POISONING AT MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

The law firm of Scarfone Hawkins ^{LLP} is pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached to resolve 2 proposed class action lawsuits arising from the consumption of food contaminated with salmonella at the Royal Botanical Gardens' Mother's Day Brunch held May 8, 2005.

Lawsuits were commenced by individuals who consumed food contaminated with salmonella and fell ill shortly after attending the Brunch.

Approximately 155 individuals suffered the salmonella poisoning.

The proposed settlement allows individuals who consumed the food contaminated with salmonella and who fell ill, to apply for compensation based on the severity of their symptoms.

Compensation will range from \$500.00 for mild cases up to \$50,000.00 for the most severe cases.

David Thompson of Scarfone Hawkins ^{LLP}, the law firm which pursued the claim on behalf of the affected individuals says, "We are satisfied that the Settlement Agreement properly and fairly compensates those individuals who became ill at the Mother's Day Brunch and are pleased that all who fell ill will be entitled to apply for reasonable relief".

The settlement is subject to court approval and, if approved, will require that notice of the settlement be published in local newspapers.

Individuals will be required to make a claim for compensation to take advantage of the settlement benefits.

Thompson is optimistic that the settlement will be approved by the court. A hearing date has been set for September 28, 2006, in Hamilton.

Scarfone Hawkins ^{LLP} has significant experience handling complex class action claims on behalf of Plaintiffs. It acted as lead counsel in successful settlement of claims against London Life Insurance Company and Canada Life Assurance Company involving "premium off-set" life insurance policies on behalf of more than 1 million policyholders across Canada.

Scarfone Hawkins ^{LLP} also successfully sued Canada Post relating to the sale of 150,000 CD-Roms that did not perform as represented.

Scarfone Hawkins ^{LLP} also successfully sued Bell Canada on behalf of consumers relating to alleged unilateral billing changes in Bell's First RateTM long distance plan.

Scarfone Hawkins ^{LLP} presently acts in a number of class action claims including claims against Dr. Salim Daya and Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation in respect of alleged unnecessary and inappropriate surgery performed on a number of women, on behalf of all individuals who borrowed money from The Cash Store and who were charged an alleged criminal rate of interest and in a claim against Northstar Aerospace, Inc. on behalf of residents of Cambridge whose properties have been contaminated with Trichloroethylene ("TCE").

More information on the lawsuit can be obtained by visiting the Scarfone Hawkins class action website at www.classactionlaw.ca.

For more information, contact David Thompson of Scarfone Hawkins ^{LLP} at (905) 523-1333.