

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT OF PROPOSED DIOCESE OF ANTIGONISH CLASS ACTION

TO: All persons who were sexually assaulted by any priest of the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish since January 1, 1950, including the Estates of all such persons now deceased (“Class Members”)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT

This Notice advises Class Members of a proposed certification and settlement of a class action lawsuit regarding alleged sexual abuse by priests in the Diocese of Antigonish (the “Diocese”). The action is referred to as *Martin v. Lahey et al*, Hfx. No. 297827 in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (the “Action”)

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

All persons who were sexually assaulted by any priest of the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish since January 1, 1950, including the Estates of all such persons now deceased.

WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT?

The proposed settlement creates a fund of up to \$12 million (“Settlement Fund”) from which eligible Class Members will receive compensation, a fund of \$1 million (“Expense Fund”) to pay the expenses of the settlement, and a fund to pay certain claimant’s costs (“Costs Fund”). Class Members will have to file a claim in order to qualify for benefits. Class members may be required to be evaluated by a neutral medical expert. A claim will be considered by a judge or retired judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia at a private and confidential hearing, unless the Class Member and the Diocese are able to agree on settlement prior to the hearing. The claim can include amounts for pain and suffering, and wage loss up to certain limits. The Diocese will pay successful claimants certain amounts for costs of (1) necessary counseling, and (2) pursuing a successful claim. The amount each claimant will receive depends upon the details of the claim, and the number of claims made.

This Notice is just a summary. To review the full agreement, visit www.dioceseclassaction.com

HOW DOES THE SETTLEMENT OBTAIN APPROVAL?

The proposed settlement is subject to court approval. In order for the settlement to become effective, it must be approved by the court, which must be satisfied that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of Class Members. The date and location for the approval hearing is as follows:

- September 10 & 11, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, 1815 Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

WHAT OPTIONS DO CLASS MEMBERS HAVE?

- **SUPPORT THE SETTLEMENT** – If you support the proposed settlement, you do not need to appear at the approval hearing. You may contact Class Counsel at the address below to advise him of your support.

- **SUBMIT A CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION** – If the settlement is approved, in order to be eligible to receive compensation, you must complete, sign, and return a Claim Form and provide other required information within specified time limits. Further details on how to make a claim will be set out in a further Notice that will be issued if the Action is certified and the proposed settlement approved. Reference may also be made to the foregoing website for status updates.

- **OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT** – If you wish to appear at the approval hearing or object to this proposed settlement, you are required to submit a written objection to Class Counsel by no later than August 28, 2009. Class Counsel will file copies of all objections with the court.

- **OPT OUT – What if I do not wish to participate in the Settlement?** If the court approves the settlement, your future rights to make a claim will be controlled and bound by the court’s order, the release and other provisions of the settlement, unless you choose to exclude yourself from the settlement class (“Opting Out”). The process and deadline for Opting Out will be set out in a further notice that will be issued if the Action is certified and the proposed settlement is approved.

LEGAL FEES

At the approval hearing, Class Counsel will request that the court approve payment of up to \$400,000 out of the Costs Fund for legal fees and disbursements of Class Counsel. Class Members will be responsible for any legal fees payable to a lawyer retained to assist the Class Member in pursuing a claim. Any fee arrangement will be reviewed by the Judge for reasonableness.

WHERE CAN CLASS MEMBERS GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, or to register to obtain notice of approval of the settlement, visit: www.dioceseclassaction.com

or contact Class Counsel at the address below:

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