

MEDIA RELEASE

Legal case against Bishops College School to Move Forward

October 30, 2008

McPhadden Samac, the law firm representing claimants in a proposed class action against Bishop's College School ("BCS"), announced today that another former student of the school has come forward to act as representative plaintiff.

BCS is a private residential school located in Lennoxville Quebec. At the time of the allegations, it was a boys-only school.

Pursuant to a pseudonym order issued by the Quebec Superior Court, there is a publication ban on disclosing the identities of the claimants. The pseudonym of the new proposed representative plaintiff is "UTC".

Earlier this year, the original proposed representative plaintiff, ABT, indicated he was no longer willing to act in that capacity due to the demands of the position. As it is a legal requirement that there be a representative plaintiff in class proceedings, BCS brought a motion to dismiss the case against it based on ABT's advice that he was no longer willing to be representative plaintiff. That motion was scheduled to be heard this coming December. Now that UTC is prepared to be the representative plaintiff, it is unlikely the school will continue with its motion to dismiss.

With UTC as the proposed representative plaintiff, it will now be possible for the case to move toward the authorization hearing at which the court will decide whether to authorize the action as a class proceeding. It is not known when that court hearing will be held though it will likely be sometime early in the new year.

To date, twenty former students of the school have contacted McPhadden Samac alleging that they were sexually, physically and psychologically abused by Mr. Forster, a BCS teacher and housemaster. Mr. Forster is deceased, having died in a train accident in England.

McPhadden Samac is the law firm that represented the plaintiffs in the class action against Upper Canada College of Toronto. That case has since been settled. McPhadden Samac is also acting for former students whom are claimants in an action against Selwyn House School of Montreal. A settlement reached with the school in that action is awaiting court approval. A hearing was held on September 22 in Montreal and Mr. Justice Gagnon of the Quebec Superior Court is considering the settlement. Justice Gagnon indicated at the time that his decision would be released within a few weeks and that decision is expected to be released any time.

Bryan McPhadden of McPhadden Samac stated that claimants are relieved and heartened that the action against Bishop's College School can now proceed and have expressed gratitude for UTC assuming the role of proposed representative plaintiff.

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