

If you or a family member attended the Lockwood, Yale, Makkovik, Nain or St. Anthony school, class action lawsuits may affect your rights.

You may be affected by class action lawsuits about whether the Federal Government of Canada (“Government”) exposed former Newfoundland residential school students to harms and abuses. The lawsuits were filed in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador and are known as: *Anderson v. Attorney General of Canada*, No. 2007 01T4955CP; *Obed v. Attorney General of Canada*, No. 20075423CP; *Lucy v. Attorney General of Canada*, No. 2008 01T0846CP; *Asivak v. Attorney General of Canada*, No. 2008 01T0845CP; and *Boasa v. Attorney General of Canada*, No. 2008 01T0844CP.

The Courts decided that this lawsuit should be a class action on behalf of a “Class” or group of people that could include you.

Those included have a choice about whether to stay in the lawsuits and be bound by the results, or ask to be excluded and keep their rights to sue the Government in a different lawsuit about what happened to them or their family member at the schools.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The lawsuits include two groups of people called a “Survivor Class” and “Family Class.”

- You are part of the Survivor Class if you attended the Lockwood School, the Yale School, the Nain Boarding School, the Makkovik Boarding School, or St. Anthony’s Orphanage anytime after March 31, 1949.
- You are part of the Family Class if you are (a) the spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent or sibling of a Survivor Class Member; (b) the spouse of a child, grandchild, parent, grandparent or sibling of a Survivor Class Member; (c) a former spouse of a Survivor Class Member; (d) a child or other ancestor of a grandchild of a Survivor Class Member; (e) someone who cohabitated with a Survivor Class Member for at least one year before they died; (f) someone who supported or was legally required to support a Survivor Class Member until they died; or (g) someone who was supported by a Survivor Class Member for at least three years prior to their death.

WHAT ARE THESE LAWSUITS ABOUT?

The lawsuits claim that the Government exposed former students to child abuse, neglect, and physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse. The Plaintiffs claim that the Government did not protect students’ physical and mental well-being even though it was its duty to do so. The Government denies that it had a responsibility to protect the children who attended these schools. The lawyers for the Classes will have to prove their claims at trials which are scheduled to begin in September 2013.

WHO REPRESENTS YOU?

The Courts have appointed Koskie Minsky LLP, Ches Crosbie Barristers and Ahlstrom Wright Oliver & Cooper LLP to represent you as “Class Counsel.” If Class Counsel obtains money or benefits for the Classes, they may ask the Courts for fees and expenses. You will not have to pay any of these fees and expenses. If the Courts grant their requests, the fees and expenses may be deducted from any money obtained for the Classes, or be paid separately by the Government.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS AND OPTIONS NOW?

Residents of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador:

You have a choice of whether to stay in the lawsuits or not. If you do nothing, you are choosing to stay in the lawsuits. This means you will be legally bound by all orders and judgments of the Courts and you will not be able to start or continue with a lawsuit against the Government about what happened to you or a family member at these schools. If money or benefits are obtained, you will be notified about how to ask for a share.

If you don’t want to stay in the lawsuits, you must exclude yourself from them. If you exclude yourself, you will not be able to get any money or benefits from these lawsuits if any are awarded or obtained. However, you will keep your right to sue the Government about what happened to you or a family member at these schools in a different lawsuit, now or in the future. You will not be bound by any of the Courts’ orders or judgments.

To ask to be excluded, send a letter or exclusion request form (available at www.NewfoundlandRScases.ca) to the address on the form postmarked by **November 30, 2012**. Your request for exclusion must include your name, address, telephone number, the name of the former student, the name of the school attended, your relationship to the former student, and your signature.

Non Residents of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador:

You may opt-in to the lawsuits. To opt-in you must send a letter or opt-in request form (available at www.NewfoundlandRScases.ca) to the address on the form postmarked by **November 30, 2012**. Your opt-in must include your name, address, telephone number, the name of the former student, the name of the school attended, your relationship to the former student, and your signature.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Go to www.NewfoundlandRScases.ca, email nfldresidentialschools@kmlaw.ca, call toll-free 1-866-386-9295 or write to Newfoundland Residential Schools Cases, P.O. Box 2011, Chanhassen, MN 55317-2011.