



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**March 4, 2003**

**Two Law Firms Work Together to Advance Tainted Salad Class Action**

**OTTAWA, March 4, 2003** - Ottawa law firm Nelligan O'Brien Payne and Toronto law firm McPhadden Samac Merner Darling today announced that they have reached an agreement to move forward together to advance the class action suit on behalf of individuals - both adults and children - who became ill as a result of eating contaminated Greek-style pasta salad produced by Tiffany Gate Foods and distributed by a number of Ontario grocery stores, including Loblaws, Loeb, A&P, and Your Independent Grocer stores. Separate class actions were originally commenced in both major cities by these law firms. Since there cannot be two class actions which proceed on the same claim(s), the law firms can either choose to work together or leave it to the courts to decide which action ought to proceed. In order to keep the focus of their efforts on the defendants, the two firms decided to reach agreement between themselves.

"By having law firms in both of the main centers where the effects of this tainted salad were experienced, we can more effectively meet the needs of the claimants. And by working together, we will be in a position to resolve the claims more quickly." explains Nelligan O'Brien Payne lawyer Peter Cronyn.

"The focus of our combined efforts will now be the defendants in order to achieve the best and most expeditious result for our clients," said Zoran Samac of McPhadden Samac Merner Darling.

In total, the two law firms will be representing 536 individuals involved in this class proceeding from all over Ontario, with the majority centered primarily in the Toronto and Ottawa regions. The suit is aimed at retrieving compensation for the victims and their families for their pain and suffering and to cover damages resulting from loss of work and out-of-pocket expenses.

The claim also protects the subrogated interests of OHIP. The shigella outbreak resulted in significant expenditure on behalf of the claimants for health care expenses delivered through OHIP. OHIP has a right to recover those expenses from anyone responsible in law.

For information about how to participate in the class action suit, please call Ann Marshall at Nelligan O'Brien Payne, 231-8220; toll free number: 1-888-565-9912.

More details about this class action are posted on both law firm websites at [www.nelligan.ca](http://www.nelligan.ca) or [www.msmd.ca](http://www.msmd.ca)

Members of the media please contact Julie Beaucaire at Nelligan O'Brien Payne (613) 231-8209.