



Nelligan O'Brien Payne

Lawyers/Patent and Trade-Mark Agents
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MEDIA RELEASE

June 26, 2002

Libel Notices Issued to CanWest Outlets on Behalf of Russell Mills

June 26, 2002—Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP today announced that they have, on behalf of Russell Mills, issued Notices of Libel to CanWest Global Communications Corp., Global Television Centre Ltd., Leonard Asper, Peter Kent, The National Post, Southam Publications Inc., and The Ottawa Citizen. The libel allegations arise out of interviews given by Leonard Asper which were then broadcast and published by Global, The National Post and the Ottawa Citizen. The Notice issued against The Ottawa Citizen also complains of inaccurate and misleading coverage on the day following Mr. Mills' dismissal.

Mr. Asper alleged that Mr. Mills was dismissed by CanWest because he repeatedly failed to comply with basic principles of journalism and because he refused to comply with the directions of his employer in that regard.

Mr. Mills has said that he was dismissed by CanWest on June 16th, 2002 because he failed to obtain CanWest's approval of an editorial which was critical of Prime Minister Chretien. He maintains that this was the only reason given for his dismissal and that there is no truth whatever to the broader allegations made by Mr. Asper last week—allegations which appear to have been made in an effort to turn the tide of criticism which had been raised against CanWest following Mr. Mills' dismissal.

“After being on the receiving end of hundreds of libel notices during my career, it seems very strange to be filing one. However, Mr. Asper's statements about me are not true and have unfairly damaged a good reputation that I have earned in the newspaper industry and community over more than 30 years. He is attacking my loyalty, integrity and competence. I cannot let that go by without defending myself.”

Nelligan O'Brien Payne anticipates that formal legal proceedings will be commenced against CanWest and others in the near future, seeking damages for both Mr. Mills' wrongful dismissal and the ensuing libel. The Notices of Libel which have been served are a necessary precondition under Ontario law to the commencement of proceedings.

Media contact:
Shannon Ross, Nelligan O'Brien Payne
(613) 231-8271

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Nelligan O'Brien Payne is a multi-service law firm offering services in a wide range of areas, including employment and labour law, union consulting, litigation, corporate and commercial law, technology law, intellectual property, public law, real estate and development, condominium law, family law and estate planning. One of the largest and most respected law firms in the National Capital Region, Nelligan O'Brien Payne is committed to offering the highest level of excellence in client service. Visit our Web site at www.nelligan.ca.