



Nelligan O'Brien Payne

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MEDIA RELEASE
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Tainted Salad Class Broadened to Include Province of Ontario; Damages Increased to \$40 Million

OTTAWA, June 5, 2002—Nelligan O'Brien Payne today announced that it has broadened its class action suit on behalf of individuals 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.

Due to the public's overwhelming response to initial media reports of Nelligan O'Brien Payne's involvement in this matter, the firm quickly learned that, notwithstanding initial reports, the effects of the tainted salad are widespread in a number of locations across the entire province of Ontario, including Woodstock, Toronto, and many other areas.

"Because a class action is intended to be inclusive, we immediately took steps to ensure that the class includes all persons in Ontario who were affected, and that the class of defendants includes all stores in Ontario that sold the tainted goods," explains lawyer Peter R. Merchant, who is managing the file. "It is critical that the interests of all provincial residents who were affected be protected." As in the original Statement of Claim, the new claim also implicitly protects the subrogated interests of organizations that were affected by the shigella outbreak, like the Ministry of Health and OHIP.

The broadened geographical coverage of the class has also led to an increase in the damages sought; the amended claim seeks \$40 million in damages. The suit is aimed at retrieving compensation for the victims and their families in order to cover damages resulting from loss of work and out-of-pocket expenses.

According to recent media reports, hundreds of people in the province of Ontario have become ill or have had family members become ill as a result of the tainted salad.

A special information page on this matter has been posted to the Nelligan O'Brien Payne Web site at www.nelligan.ca.

For information about how to participate in the class action suit, please call (613) 231 8208. Members of the media please contact Shannon Ross at (613) 231 8271.

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.