

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT OF DIOCESE OF ANTIGONISH CLASS ACTION

TO: All persons who were sexually assaulted by any priest of the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish ("the Diocese") since January 1, 1950, including the Estates of all such persons now deceased ("Class Members")

NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT

This Notice advises Class Members of a conditional certification and settlement of a class action lawsuit regarding alleged sexual abuse by priests in the Diocese of Antigonish (the "Diocese"). The action is referred to as *Martin v. Lahey et al.*, Hfx. No. 297827 in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (the "Action")

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?

All persons who were sexually assaulted by any priest of the Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Antigonish between January 1, 1950, and the date of certification, September 10, 2009, including the Estates of all such persons now deceased.

WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT?

The settlement creates a fund of up to \$12 million ("Settlement Fund") to pay compensation to eligible Class Members, a fund of \$1 million ("Expense Fund") to pay the expenses of the settlement, and a fund to pay certain claimant's costs ("Costs Fund"). In order to be considered for compensation, Class Members must file a completed Claim Form with Diocese Counsel on or before **March 10, 2010**. Class members may be required to be evaluated by a neutral medical expert. If both parties agree, a claim may be settled without a hearing. Otherwise, the claim will be adjudicated by a retired judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia at a private and confidential hearing. The claim can include compensation for pain and suffering, and wage loss up to certain limits. The Diocese will pay successful claimants certain amounts for costs of (1) necessary counseling, and (2) pursuing a successful claim. The amount paid to each eligible claimant will depend upon both the evidence presented and the total value of other eligible claims.

This Notice is just a summary. To review the full agreement, visit www.dioceseclassaction.com.

WHAT OPTIONS DO CLASS MEMBERS HAVE?

1. YOU CAN SUBMIT A COMPENSATION CLAIM

If you choose to file a Claim, you or your counsel are requested to notify Class Counsel of your intention to become a Claimant on or before **December 4, 2009**. The address is:

Arnold Pizzo McKiggan
306-5670 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1H6
Toll Free in Atlantic Canada: 1-877-423-2050
Local: (902) 423-2050
Fax: (902) 423-6707
Email: claimslawyer@dioceseclassaction.com
Attn: Mr. John McKiggan, Class Counsel

Claim Forms are available from Class Counsel or at www.dioceseclassaction.com.

To be considered, you must complete, sign, and file a Claim Form with Diocese Counsel named below, on or before **March 10, 2010**:

MacIntosh, MacDonnell & MacDonald
610 East River Road, Suite 260, P.O. Box 368
New Glasgow, NS, B2H 5E5
Fax: 902.752.7810
Attn: Bruce T. MacIntosh, Q.C., Diocese Counsel
Email: dioceselawyer@dioceseclassaction.com

2. YOU CAN DO NOTHING

You do not have to make a claim under the class action if you choose not to do so. However, if you choose not to file a claim within the time limit, you will not be allowed to make a class action claim or commence a private lawsuit against the Diocese for compensation in the future, unless you file a notice to exclude yourself from the settlement class ("Opt Out Notice").

3. OPT OUT NOTICE

If you do not want to participate in the class action settlement, but want to preserve your right to commence a private lawsuit for compensation in the future, you must formally opt out by completing the Opt Out Form and filing this form with Diocese Counsel no later than **December 4, 2009**. Opt Out Forms are available from Class Counsel or at www.dioceseclassaction.com.

CAN THE SETTLEMENT BE CANCELLED?

If too many class members come forward, the Plaintiff Ronald Martin has the option to cancel the settlement and continue with the Action. If class member(s) opt out, the Diocese has the option to cancel the settlement and continue defending against the Action in the conventional manner.

LEGAL FEES

The Court has approved an interim fee payment for Class Counsel. Class Counsel have permission to apply at a later date for further approved fees up to a cumulative total fee not exceeding \$400,000.00, to be paid from the Costs Fund.

LEGAL COUNSEL:

You can confidentially retain the services of Class Counsel to represent you in your claim. You can also retain your own private lawyer, or self-represent yourself. Use of a lawyer is recommended. Any fee arrangement will be reviewed by the Judge for reasonableness.

WHERE CAN CLASS MEMBERS GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, visit: www.dioceseclassaction.com or contact Class Counsel John McKiggan.