CLASS ACTION REGARDING DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES BY SÛRETÉ DU QUÉBEC AGENTS AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN VAL D'OR

The Superior Court has authorized the Val d'Or Indigenous Friendship Centre to institute a class action against the Attorney General of Quebec, acting on behalf of the Sûreté du Québec. The class action seeks compensation for Indigenous people who have been victims of certain discriminatory practices perpetrated by one or more officers of the Sûreté du Québec.

This class action bears the file number 500-06-001174-214 in the Superior Court of Quebec. The proceedings will take place in the judicial district of Montreal.

The judgment of authorization is a preliminary step that allows the class action. This judgment does not determine whether the Attorney General of Quebec is liable. Following the trial, the Superior Court will decide whether the defendant should be ordered to pay damages to class members and, if so, in what amount.

CLASS MEMBERS

You are a member of the class action if you meet the following criteria:

1. You are an Indigenous person.

2. You have been the victim of one or more of the following discriminatory practices committed by one or more officers of the Sûreté du Québec:
    a. Sexual assault;
    b. Physical assault;
    c. Confinement or abduction;
    d. Solicitation of sexual favors;
    e. Excessive force during arrests;
    f. Harassment.

3. The event or events took place within the territory of the MRC de la Vallée-de-l'Or.

If you meet these criteria, you may be entitled to financial compensation, depending on the final judgment in the case.

You do not need to take any action to become a class member. Further notices will be published if the class action is successful or if a settlement is reached between the parties, to inform members of their right to compensation.

The authorization judgment identifies the main questions of mixed law and fact to be decided at trial, as well as the conclusions sought against the defendant. These can be found in **Appendix A** of this notice.

WHO REPRESENTS THE MEMBERS?

The law firm **Trudel Johnston & Lespérance** represents the class members.

LAWYER'S FEES will be paid only if the case is successful and must be approved by the Court. As a result, you will not have **to pay anything** unless you get compensation.

YOU CAN OPT OUT UNTIL JANUARY 12, 2027

As a member, you will be bound by any judgment rendered or any settlement reached in the class action.

If you do not wish to be a member of the class action, you can opt out from the class before the deadline set by the Court.

Opting out means that you will not be entitled to any compensation if a favorable judgment is rendered or a settlement is reached in this class action.

Note that an individual who does not discontinue an originating application having the same subject matter as the class action before the time for opting out has expired is deemed to have opted out. You may join the class by withdrawing your individual application within 60 days following the present notice, the deadline being **January 12, 2027**.

To opt out, send a letter to the Superior Court clerk's office, indicating file number 500-06-001174-214, to the following address:

Greffe de la Cour supérieure
Palais de justice de Montréal
1, rue Notre-Dame Est
Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1B6

YOU CAN ASK TO INTERVENE

A member may apply to the Court to intervene in the class action. The Court will authorize the intervention if it considers it to be beneficial to the class.

STAY INFORMED

If you have any questions about the class action or would like to receive information on the progress of the case, you can subscribe to the Trudel Johnston & Lespérance mailing list for this class action by filling out the form at: https://tjl.quebec/en/class-actions/caavd/.

PLEASE NOTE: **Your subscription to the newsletter is not a claim!** The claim procedure will be established by the Court only in the event of a successful class action or settlement between the parties.

You can also consult the Registry of class actions, where all proceedings must be published: https://www.registredesactionscollectives.quebec/en.

You can contact the Val d'Or Indigenous Friendship Centre's lawyers at the following address:

TRUDEL JOHNSTON & LESPÉRANCE

750 Côte de la Place d'Armes, Suite 90
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 2X8
Toll-free: 1-844-588-8385
info@tjl.quebec

APPENDIX A
QUESTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE COURT

Questions authorized by the Court:

1. Did officers of the Sûreté du Québec commit faults in the performance of their duties with respect to the class members?

2. Did the Sûreté du Québec fail in its obligation to implement appropriate measures to prevent such faults and to train, supervise, and discipline its officers?

3. What amount of compensatory damages should the defendant be ordered to pay to the class members?

4. Were the rights of the class members to integrity, liberty, security of the person, and dignity violated?

5. Were the rights of the class members who were confined by SQ officers to protection against arbitrary detention violated?

6. Were the rights of the class members who were confined by SQ officers to be treated with humanity and with the respect due to the human person violated?

7. Were the rights of the class members to equality and equal protection under the law violated?

8. Are the class members entitled to fair and appropriate compensation under section 24(1) of the Canadian Charter?

9. Are the class members entitled to punitive damages under section 49 of the Quebec Charter?

Conclusions sought authorized by the Court:

GRANT the plaintiff's action on behalf of all class members;

CONDEMN the defendant to pay each member of the class an amount to be determined by the Court to compensate for the violation of their rights protected by the Canadian Charter and the Quebec Charter, together with interest at the legal rate plus additional compensation since the filing of the motion for authorization to institute a class action;

CONDEMN the defendant to pay each member of the class an amount to be determined in compensation for the harm suffered by them;

CONDEMN the defendant to pay each member of the class an amount to be determined as punitive damages for the intentional violation of their rights protected by the Quebec Charter;

ORDER that the claims of the class members be recovered individually;

RECONVENE the parties within 30 days of the final judgment to determine the terms and conditions of recovery;

ALL, with legal fees, including the costs of experts, notices and administration of the recovery process.