



**WAGNERS**  
A SERIOUS INJURY LAW FIRM

**PRESS RELEASE – JANUARY 30, 2019**

**PROVINCE AND APSEA CONSENT TO CERTIFICATION OF  
CLASS ACTION ARISING OUT OF ALLEGED ABUSE  
OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS**

The Province of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority have consented to the certification of a proposed class action concerning allegations of systemic sexual, physical and mental abuse inflicted on children who attended the School for the Deaf in Halifax and the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf in Amherst (later named the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority – Resource Centre for the Hearing Handicapped and subsequently the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority – Resource Centre for the Hearing Impaired). The Province and APSEA are named as defendants in the class action filed by Wagners in January 2016.

The provision of the Defendants’ consent means the motion for certification is unopposed. However, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court still must approve the certification of the class action. A motion for this purpose will proceed at the Halifax Law Courts on January 31, 2019.

“We are pleased that we’ve reached an agreement with the Province and APSEA on the certification process. It means significant time and efforts can be redirected to proceeding to a trial on a more expedient basis. We will appear before the Honourable Justice Patrick Duncan on January 31<sup>st</sup> to make submissions as we assist the Court in determining whether the class action may proceed under the Nova Scotia *Class Proceedings Act*,” remarks Raymond Wagner, Q.C., class counsel.

Richard Martell and Michael Perrier are the proposed representative plaintiffs. If the Court certifies the action, they will act as representatives of the class, which consists of all students who attended and/or resided at the two schools during the class period of 1913 to 1995 (when the Amherst school closed).

“I am very pleased that this matter is finally moving forward and that those involved in the deaf community may realize some healing and be able to move on with our lives and to be able to speak to the tragic abuses we suffered. We have been deprived of our language and culture, silently suffering every kind of abuse along with it. My deaf community is standing strong together so that we not suffer in silence anymore ... we can finally move away from the memories of those that oppressed us,” says Mr. Martell.

Michael Perrier adds: “I’m happy ... the class action is underway.” Mr. Perrier notes that it is time to let the experiences of students be shared.

Wagners has been contacted by over 230 former students who allege abuse while attending these segregated educational institutions.

**Mr. Wagner is available for interviews. Please contact Wagners at 902-425-7330 or toll-free at 1-800-465-8794 to make arrangements.**

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