

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLASS ACTION TO BE LAUNCHED AGAINST CENTRAL REGIONAL HEALTH
AUTHORITY

The Newfoundland and Labrador law firms of Bob Buckingham Law and Eli Baker Law have commenced a class action lawsuit against the Central Regional Integrated Health Authority for breaches of patients' privacy. The class action is on behalf of the two hundred and forty (240) patients who received notice in August of 2020 their privacy had been breached and the twenty (20) additional patients who received a similar notice in January 2021.

Mr. Bob Buckingham and Mr. Eli Baker are the lead counsel for the Plaintiffs in the matter.

The Statement of Claim was filed on February 9, 2021 and immediately served upon the Defendant.

"The recent breaches of patients' privacy by Central Health and the intrusion into patients' private, confidential medical records and personal health information is extremely troublesome considering the outstanding class actions pleading inadequate protection of patients' privacy in the three (3) health authorities in the province since 2012 and the fact the Central Health Authority acknowledged the breaches found last summer had been ongoing for some two (2) years", said Bob Buckingham.

Additionally, there is a very concerning and disturbing element to the privacy breaches which occurred between October 2018 and June 2020 in that in many of the intrusions there was an apparent interest in obstetric files, newborns or about-to-be born children. "This will be an area which will receive particular scrutiny and analysis in our discovery of the Defendant about the breaches," said Mr. Buckingham.

"The next step will be discussions with the Defendants' legal counsel and communications with the Court to have a Case Management Judge assigned to move the case along", said Mr. Buckingham.

"Presently there are three (3) outstanding class actions against Regional health Authorities on the island. The leading case in the Courts on the claims is the claim against the Western Regional Health Authority. That matter is set for trial from November 8-18, 2021 at Supreme Court in Corner Brook. The other two (2) matters namely the 2012 Central Health claim and the 2012 Eastern Health claim are being held in abeyance pending a judicial determination of the legal issues raised in the Western Health claim. Once the Western Health claim is determined we will move with all due dispatch to conclude the 2012 Eastern Health and Central Health matters", said Mr. Buckingham.

More information on this Class Action can be obtained from Mr. Bob Buckingham of Bob Buckingham Law, 81 Bond Street, St. John's, Newfoundland (709) 739-6688 (phone), (709) 739-6686 (fax), and bob@buckinghamlaw.ca.

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