

Quebec Long Form Pre-Approval Notice (S.C.M. no. 500-06-000888-178)

IF YOU BOUGHT PACKAGED BREAD IN CANADA BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2001 AND DECEMBER 31, 2021, YOU MAY HAVE RIGHTS IN NATIONAL CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS

What's This About?

Class actions have been authorized by the Quebec Court and certified by the Ontario Court on behalf of all residents in Canada alleging that certain manufacturers and retailers of Packaged Bread engaged in anticompetitive conduct resulting in overcharges for Packaged Bread sold in Canada.

Packaged Bread means any and all packaged bread products and bread alternatives produced or distributed by any of the current or future Defendants to the Actions, including but not limited to bagged bread, buns, rolls, bagels, naan bread, English muffins, wraps, pita and tortillas, but excluding bread frozen when sold and bread baked on-site in the establishment where it is retailed.

The Courts have not yet made any decision on the merits of the claim or the defences in either of the Actions.

Some parties have entered into a national settlement in both the Quebec and Ontario actions.

The Quebec Plaintiff and the Quebec Settling Defendants, Loblaw Companies Limited, Loblaws Inc., George Weston Limited, Weston Foods (Canada) Inc., and Weston Food Distribution Inc. (collectively “**Loblaw/Weston**”), will be asking the Court to approve the settlement, the details of which are set out below, pertaining to their alleged role in the facts alleged in the Actions.

The Actions will continue against the Non-Settling Defendants: Canada Bread Company, Limited, Sobeys Inc., Sobeys Quebec Inc., Sobeys Capital Incorporated, Metro Inc., Wal-Mart Canada Corp. and Giant Tiger Stores Limited.

Who Is Concerned?

On December 19, 2019 (as rectified on April 22, 2022), the Quebec Court, in file number 500-06-000888-178, authorized the Quebec Plaintiff to institute the Quebec Action on behalf of the following class:

“All persons, partnerships and associations resident in Québec who purchased at least one package of bread in between January 1st, 2001 and December 19, 2019;

The word “bread” in the class description means: *“bread products and bread alternatives, produced or retailed by any of the Defendants, excluding bread frozen when sold and bread baked on-site in the establishment where it is retailed.”*

On March 6, 2025, the Quebec Court authorized the extension of this class period to December 31, 2021, for settlement purposes and against the Quebec Settling Defendants only.

What does the Settlement Provide?

A national settlement has been reached to resolve the Actions against Loblaw/Weston, subject to approval of the Courts, for **\$500 million** (\$96 million of which has already been paid through the Loblaw Card Program) and Loblaw/Weston’s cooperation in prosecuting the Actions against the remaining Non-Settling Defendants, in exchange for a full release of all Released Claims against Loblaw/Weston and a dismissal of the Actions against them.

This settlement is not an admission by Loblaw/Weston of liability, fault, or wrongdoing, but is a compromise of disputed claims. The Courts will be asked to approve a claims distribution process governing how the Settlement Funds will be distributed to Settlement Class Members. If the settlement is approved, 78% of the Settlement Funds will be allocated to the Ontario Action and 22% to the Quebec Action.

When are the Settlement Approval Hearings?

Hearings to decide on approval of the settlement will be heard by both the Quebec Court and the Ontario Court.

The hearing in the Quebec Court is on June 16, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., at the Montreal Courthouse, at 1 Notre-Dame E., Montreal, QC, H2Y 1B6 or by Teams.

The approval of the settlement in Quebec is contingent upon the approval of same in Ontario.

The Courts will also be asked to approve class counsel fees, administration expenses and funder entitlements payable from the Settlement Amount.

Who Pays Class Counsel?

At the Quebec Settlement Approval Hearing, the lawyers working on the Quebec class action will be requesting court approval of lawyers' fees of \$20,900,000 (19% of the recovery allocated to the Quebec class action) plus disbursements and applicable taxes. The Quebec Court will decide the amount the lawyers will be paid out of the settlement monies.

What Do I Need To Do If I Want To Be Included?

If you are a member of the Quebec Settlement Class, **you do not need to do anything to be included in the settlement.**

As a member of the Quebec Settlement Class, you:

- a) will be bound by the terms of the settlement, the administration protocol and the distribution protocol if approved by the Courts;
- b) may make a claim to share in the money to be paid to Settlement Class Members through a claims process that will be run at a time to be determined by the courts;
- c) will give up your rights to take your own personal action against Loblaw/Weston;
- d) will be able to object to the Settlement or comment on it.

Members of the Quebec Settlement Class who did not already opt out from the Quebec Action (except for those who purchased Packaged Bread between December 20, 2019 to December 31, 2021, who can opt out as described below) will be bound by the terms of the settlement and the distribution protocol if they are approved by the Courts and will release Loblaw/Weston from the Released Claims.

What Do I Need To Do If I Don't Want To Be Bound?

If you are a Quebec resident and you purchased Packaged Bread between January 1, 2001 and December 19, 2019, **you may no longer opt-out as the deadline for doing so has passed.**

If you are a Quebec resident and purchased Packaged Bread only between December 20, 2019 and December 31, 2021 and you do not want to be a member of the Quebec Settlement Class who is legally bound by the Quebec Action, you must exclude yourself by submitting a request to the Settlement Administrator by May 30, 2025. Go to www.QuebecBreadSettlement.ca to obtain information on how to opt out of the Quebec Action.

If you exclude yourself from the Quebec Action by the Opt-Out Filing Deadline, you will:

- a) retain any rights you have to bring your own lawsuit or continue any lawsuit you have already brought at your own expense against Loblaw/Weston;
- b) not be able to collect any money that will ultimately be paid as a result of these Actions and will not be able to object to this Settlement Agreement or comment on it.

A member of the Quebec Settlement Class may seek authorization from the Quebec Court to intervene if the intervention is considered helpful to the Quebec Settlement Class. A member who intervenes may be required to submit to a deposition. A member of the Quebec Settlement Class other than the Quebec Plaintiff or an Intervenor may not be required to pay the legal costs arising from the Action.

What If I Have Objections To The Settlement or Comments On It?

If you wish to comment on or object to the settlement, the distribution protocol or the fees being sought by class counsel, you must do so in writing so it is received by the Settlement Administrator by **May 30, 2025**. Go to www.QuebecBreadSettlement.ca to obtain information on how to object to the Settlement Agreement. Written objections received by the Objection Filing Deadline will be provided to the Courts.

If the Courts approve the settlement, members of the Quebec Settlement Class who objected to it will nonetheless be bound by its terms unless they have opted-out of the Quebec Action as described in this Notice.

You can object to the settlement or comment on it without a lawyer. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

Where Can I Get More Information?

It is strongly recommended that you review the settlement agreement and answers to frequently asked questions found at www.QuebecBreadSettlement.ca. You may contact the Settlement Administrator:

Concilia Services Inc.

1-888-677-5770, bread@conciliainc.com

Or contact Quebec Class Counsel at:

LPC Avocats, Mtre Joey Zukran Phone: (514) 379-1572 Email: izukran@lpplex.com	Renno Vathilakis, Mtre Michael Vathilakis Phone: (514) 937-1221 Email: mvathilakis@renvath.com
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This Notice contains a summary of some of the terms of the authorization order and the settlement agreement in the Actions. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this Notice and any of those documents, the terms of the documents shall govern.