

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Ouellet v. Bell Canada
(450-06-000001-176)

Please be advised that a settlement has been reached between the Plaintiff, Ms. Ouellet and the Defendant Bell Canada (“**Bell**”) in a class action regarding collect calls processed by Bell. The class action has been authorized by the Court for the purpose of this settlement only.

The Superior Court will hold a hearing to approve the settlement on **February 27, 2023 at 9h30 in room 1 of the Sherbrooke Court house** located at 375 King Street West, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1H 6B9, or via **TEAMS**. You can attend the hearing by simply showing up, but you are not obligated to. The date and time of the hearing may be subject to adjournment by the Court without further notice to the class members, other than a copy of the notice which will be posted on class counsel’s website, as well as the login information for the TEAMS hearing: WWW.LPCLEX.COM/BELLCOLLECT.

What is this class action about?

The Plaintiff alleges that Bell failed to disclose collect call rates to their recipients and that these rates are abusive. Bell denies any wrongdoing or liability in this matter.

Who are the class members?

- 1) All natural persons in Quebec who have received and paid the charges associated with one or more local or long distance collect calls processed by Bell Canada between September 25, 2014 and September 30, 2022 inclusively, other than calls made from provincial correctional facilities located in the Province of Ontario using the *Offender Telephone Management System (OTMS)*; and
- 2) All legal persons, partnerships and associations or other groups not endowed with juridical personality in Quebec who have received and paid the charges associated with one or more local or long distance collect calls processed by Bell Canada between September 25, 2014 and September 30, 2022 inclusively, other than calls made from provincial correctional facilities located in the Province of Ontario using the *Offender Telephone Management System (OTMS)*, and who did not invoice the charges to a third party (such as, but not limited to, a client, an organization or legal aid).

What does the Settlement provide for?

Without admission of any kind, Bell will pay \$1,000,000 to fully and finally settle this action for the purpose of avoiding further costs and putting a final end to this litigation and to all related claims.

This amount will be distributed on a *pro rata* basis among the class members entitled to an amount, after deduction of Class Counsel fees (\$300,000.00 plus taxes) and other

disbursements, costs and expenses to administer the settlement estimated at \$110,000.00 plus taxes, subject to Court approval.

Who can receive money?

The class members who received and paid the charges associated with one or more long distance collect calls will be eligible for a refund, to be paid on a pro rata basis, of the charges for long distance collect calls processed by Bell that appear on one of their invoices in the period between September 25, 2014 and September 30, 2022 inclusively.

To obtain a refund, class members entitled to an amount must submit a formal claim form and a copy of their invoice on which any such charges appear.

A second notice will be published after the Court's approval of the settlement to inform of the claims period during which the class members entitled to an amount will have to submit the claim form and the required documentation to benefit from the settlement.

Objection to the settlement

If you wish to object to the settlement, you can submit a written objection to Class Counsel or attend the hearing of **February 27, 2023** at 9h30 in room 1 of the Sherbrooke Courthouse located at 375 King Street West, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1H 6B9, or via TEAMS, to explain why you disagree with the settlement. Login information for the TEAMS hearing is available on class counsel's website: WWW.LPCLEX.COM/BELLCOLLECT.

Although it is not mandatory, you should complete the objection form and send it to Mtre Joey Zukran of LPC Avocat Inc. no later than **January 17, 2023**. You can object without being represented by a lawyer. You may be represented by a lawyer at your own expense.

Exclusion from the class action

If you do not wish to be bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself from the class action. If you exclude yourself, you will not be able to object to the settlement and you will not be entitled to any amount under the settlement. You will have the right to take your own legal action against Bell at your own expense.

To exclude yourself, you must send a written request for exclusion to the clerk of Sherbrooke Courthouse located at 375 King Street West, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1H 6B9, which must be received by no later than **January 17, 2023**. You may also send your exclusion to Mtre Joey Zukran of LPC Avocat Inc. by email. If you do not exclude yourself, you will be bound by the settlement.

As a class member, you have the right to intervene in the present class action in the manner provided by law. No class member other than the Plaintiff or an intervenor may be required to pay legal costs arising from the class action.

To obtain more information

Do not contact Bell Canada. For more information or to obtain the full text of the settlement and the objection or exclusion forms, contact:

LPC Avocat Inc.
Mtre Joey Zukran
276 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 801
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N3
T: (514) 379-1572
E: jzukran@lpclex.com

In the event of any discrepancy between the content of this notice and that of the settlement, the text of the settlement will prevail. The publication of this notice was approved by the Court.