# NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION AND SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING (LONG) NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT IN LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY CLASS ACTION

# Please read this Notice carefully. Your legal rights may be affected regardless of whether or not you act.

This Notice is for all Persons whose personal information was compromised, stolen, and/or disclosed in the security incident that occurred between January 21, 2017 and January 25, 2017 at Laurentian University of Sudbury (the "Data Incident").

Sarah Connell v. Laurentian University of Sudbury (Court File No. 1076/17 CP)

#### **The Class Action**

A representative Plaintiff (identified as Sarah Connell) commenced a class proceeding against Laurentian (the "Action"), seeking damages on behalf of individuals whose Personal information was in possession of Laurentian and was compromised, stolen, and/or disclosed in the Data Incident. Laurentian denies the allegations made against it in this class proceeding. McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP represents the class ("Class Counsel").

The parties to the class proceeding have reached a settlement (the "Settlement") and the Action has been certified as a class action for the purposes of completing the Settlement.

#### The Settlement Class is:

All persons whose personal information was compromised, stolen, and/or disclosed in the Data Incident that occurred between January 21, 2017 and January 25, 2017 at Laurentian University.

#### **The Proposed Settlement**

If the Settlement is approved by the Court, Laurentian has agreed to provide a Settlement Fund of CAD \$200,000.00 to pay Settlement Class Member claims.

If the Settlement is approved, Settlement Class Members would be eligible to submit either a Documented Claim or Undocumented Claim.

Settlement Class Members who have suffered damages, losses, costs and/or unreimbursed expenses caused by the Data Incident and who submit a Claim Form evidencing (i) their Membership in the Settlement Class; and (ii) documented damages incurred as a result of the Data Incident, would be eligible for the reimbursement of such damages up to CAD \$1,000 ("Documented Claim").

Settlement Class Members who do not have documentation or proof of damages and who submit a Claim Form evidencing their Membership in the Settlement Class would be entitled to CAD \$35 for reimbursement of lost time ("Undocumented Claim").

#### How the Case will Proceed

The Court will convene a hearing to decide whether it approves the Settlement and the proposed Class Counsel fees at the same time This hearing will be held on **JUNE 18, 2025**.

If you are a Settlement Class Member, and you object to the terms of the Settlement, or to the fees that Class Counsel will request, you are entitled to file a written objection with the Court. The procedure for filing a written objection is as follows:

- Your objection must be sent to the Claims Administrator by MAY 29, 2025;
- Your objection must include a heading that refers to the Action and court file number (i.e. Sarah Connell v. Laurentian University of Sudbury, Court File No. 1076/17 CP).
- Your objection must include your name, address, telephone number and email address, and if represented by counsel, the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of counsel;
- You must provide a statement as to whether you intend to appear at the Settlement Approval Hearing (Settlement Class Members who object may also ask the Court for the right to speak at the Settlement Approval Hearing);
- You must provide a declaration that you consider yourself to be included in the Settlement Class;
- You must provide your reason(s) for objecting;
- You must provide copies of any papers, briefs or other documents upon with the objection is based; and
- You must provide your signature.

The contact particulars for the Class Administrator are:

#### McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP

140 Fullarton Street, Suite 1800 London, ON N6A 5P2 Toll-Free Telephone: 1-844-672-5666 Email: christina.wolfe@mckenzielake.com

If the Court approves the Settlement, then a further notice will be provided to the Settlement Class with details explaining how to make a claim for a portion of the Settlement Fund.

#### Participating in the Class Action

If the Settlement is approved by the Court, and you are a member of the Settlement Class, you are automatically included in the Action, and will be entitled to claim a share of the Settlement Fund, and you will give a release of all potential claims against Laurentian regarding the Data Incident, unless you exclude yourself from the Action by "opting-out".

If the Settlement is not approved by the Court, and you do not opt out, you will be bound by all results in the Action whether favourable to the Settlement Class or not. However, Settlement Class Members are never liable to pay adverse court costs to Laurentian.

## **Excluding Yourself from the Class Action**

If you fall within the Settlement Class definition and you do not wish to participate in the Action, you must opt-out of the Action, by sending a written election to opt-out to the Claims Administrator at the address above.

The deadline to file the opt-out notice is JUNE 9, 2025.

If you opt-out by the deadline, it means that you may seek to bring your own lawsuit, and you will not be bound by the Settlement or any result in the Action. It also means that you cannot object to the Settlement, or request or obtain any of the Settlement Fund approved by the Court.

## If the Court does not Approve the Settlement

If the Court declines to approve the Settlement, it will not be completed, the certification order will be set aside, the Action will continue against Laurentian on a contested basis.

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You can also visit <u>www.laurentiandataclassaction.com</u>, where you will find information and documents about the Settlement, a Claim Form, plus other information.

This Notice was approved by order of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer. The court office will be unable to answer any questions about the matters in this Notice. Please do not contact them.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## (1) Why did I receive this Notice?

You are receiving this Notice because Laurentian's records indicate that you may be a Settlement Class Member and entitled to claim certain compensation offered under the Settlement, if the Settlement is approved by the Court and you submit a valid and timely Claim.

You have a right to know about the Settlement, and your options, before the Court decides whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court certifies the Settlement Class and approves the Settlement, Laurentian will provide the payments agreed to in the Settlement Agreement to Settlement Class Members who submit valid and timely Claims. This Notice explains the class action lawsuit (or the Action), the Settlement, your legal rights, what compensation is available, who is eligible for that compensation, and how to make a Claim for that compensation. Please read this entire Notice carefully.

## (2) What is the class action about?

The individual who filed this lawsuit is referred to as the "Representative Plaintiff", and Laurentian University of Sudbury (or Laurentian) is called the "Defendant" (the Representative Plaintiff and the Defendant are, together, the "Parties"). The Representative Plaintiff alleges that Laurentian is liable for damages resulting from the Data Incident. Laurentian denies the allegations made against it in this class proceeding, and none of the allegations have been proven.

## (3) Why is there a Settlement?

The Parties have agreed to the Settlement to avoid the cost and risk of further litigation, including potential trials, and to provide Settlement Class Members with reasonable compensation in exchange for releasing Laurentian from any potential liability. The Settlement does not mean that Laurentian did anything wrong, and the Court did not decide which Party was right.

The Parties entered into a Settlement Agreement. The Representative Plaintiff and Class Counsel believe that the Settlement is fair, reasonable and in the best interests of the Settlement Class.

This notice summarizes the essential terms of the Settlement. The Settlement Agreement along with all Schedules describe in greater detail the rights and obligations of all the parties and is available at <u>www.laurentiandataclassaction.com</u>. If there is any conflict between this notice and the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Agreement governs.

## (4) How do I know if I am part of the Settlement?

For the purposes of the Settlement, the Settlement Class is comprised of all Persons whose personal information was compromised, stolen, and/or disclosed in the Data Incident that occurred between January 21, 2017 and January 25, 2017 at Laurentian University.

# (5) Who is excluded from the Settlement?

Only Settlement Class Members who meet certain criteria are eligible to submit Claims in the Settlement. You are excluded from making a Claim in the Settlement if:

- (a) you are not a Settlement Class Member under the terms of the Settlement Agreement; or
- (b) you have validly opted out of the Action.

# (6) What is available under the Settlement?

Under the Settlement, Laurentian has agreed to provide a Settlement Fund of CAD \$200,000.00 to pay Settlement Class Member claims. Settlement Class Members may be eligible to submit either a Documented Claim or Undocumented Claim. The Documented Claims Fund is capped at a maximum of CAD \$40,000 and the Undocumented Claims Fund is capped at a maximum of CAD \$160,000.

Under the Settlement, Settlement Class Members may be eligible for compensation through one of the following Claims, provided that they submit a valid and timely Claim:

## (A) Documented Claims

Settlement Class Members who suffered damages, losses, costs and/or unreimbursed expenses caused by the Data Incident may be eligible to claim reimbursement of such damages. This includes damages, losses, costs and/or unreimbursed expenses related to fraud or identity theft.

To be eligible for a Documented Claim, the Settlement Class Member must submit a Claim Form and include evidence of the following:

- (a) they are a member of the Class; and
- (b) documented evidence to show damages, losses, costs and/or unreimbursed expenses caused by the Data Incident.

The evidence for a Documented Claim must be objective, reliable and credible, and may include:

• credit card statements,

- invoices; and
- receipts for out-of-pocket expenses incurred.

Only expenses actually incurred by the Settlement Class Member and directly caused by the Data Incident will be approved.

Settlement Class Members who submit a Claim that is approved as a Documented Claim will be eligible for the reimbursement of their damages, up to a maximum of CAD \$1,000.

If the Documented Claims exceed the amount remaining in this fund, each Claim will be reduced pro rata.

## (B) Undocumented Claims

Settlement Class Members who do not have a Documented Claim may be eligible for an Undocumented Claim. To be eligible for an Undocumented Claim, the Settlement Class Member must submit a Claim Form establishing that they are a member of the Settlement Class.

Settlement Class Members who submit a Claim that is approved as an Undocumented Claim will be entitled to CAD \$35 for reimbursement of lost time.

If the Undocumented Claims exceed the amount remaining in this fund, each Claim will be reduced pro rata.

Settlement Class Members are not eligible to receive payment for both a Documented Claim and an Undocumented Claim (i.e., Settlement Class Members will be entitled only to submit either a Documented Claim or an Undocumented Claim).

If either the Capped Documented Claims Fund or the Capped Undocumented Claims Fund is insufficient to pay all approved Documented Claims or Undocumented Claims, respectively, each approved Claim will be proportionally reduced.

## (7) How do I make a Claim?

The claims process has not yet begun. If the Settlement is approved by the Court at the Settlement Approval Hearing to be held on **JUNE 18, 2025**, you may make a Claim by doing the following:

- (a) fill out the Claim Form;
- (b) include the required evidence for a Documented Claim; and
- (c) submit the Claim Form and supporting evidence to the Claims Administrator by **mail** (at the address listed on the Claim Form) or by

**email** (at the email address listed on the Claim Form) on or before the [100 days from the first dissemination of the Notice of Settlement Approval].

Please keep a copy of your completed Claim Form and all of the supporting evidence and documentation you submit for your own records.

If you fail to submit a Claim Form and supporting evidence and documentation on or before **[100 days from the first dissemination of the Notice of Settlement Approval]**, you will not be eligible for any compensation whatsoever (i.e., you will not get paid). Sending in a Claim Form late will be the same as doing nothing.

# (8) What evidence do I need to prove my Claim?

Supporting documentation must be submitted with the Claim Form to be eligible for a Documented Claim.

The supporting documentation required for a **Documented Claim** is evidence of:

- (a) membership in the Settlement Class; and
- (b) documented evidence of damages incurred as a result of the Data Incident.

Settlement Class Members who submit an **Undocumented Claim** must establish their membership in the Settlement Class but do not need to provide any documentation or proof of harm.

## (9) Can I submit a Claim on behalf of someone else?

Yes, you can submit a Claim on behalf of someone else if you have legal authority to do so. If a Claim is being submitted on behalf of someone else, the person completing the Claim must explain on the Claim Form why he/she has the authority to act and must attach a copy of any Certificate of Appointment of Estate Trustee, Power of Attorney or other document establishing that authority.

## (10) If my Claim is successful, when will I receive my payment?

Payments will be distributed at the end of the Claims Period [100 days from the first dissemination of the Notice of Settlement Approval].

## (11) Who will review my Claim?

Class Counsel (McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP) will be appointed by parties or the Court as Claims Administrator to administer the Settlement and the verification of Claims. Once you submit a Claim, it will be reviewed by the Claims Administrator and if the Claim is valid, the Claims Administrator will send you the payment directly. The Claims Administrator has the sole and exclusive responsibility for the verification of claims. The Claims Administrator will ensure that each Claim Form contains the requisite evidence of either a Documented Claim or Undocumented Claim before approving the Claim.

## (12) What if my Claim is found to be incomplete?

Settlement Class Members that submit deficient Claims will be notified by the Claims Administrator by email. The Settlement Class Member will then have **thirty (30) days** to submit materials to cure any deficiencies. The Claims Administrator will then make a final decision regarding the admissibility of the Claim and advise the Settlement Class Member accordingly.

# (13) Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Yes. The law firm representing the Settlement Class (Class Counsel) is listed below. You will not be charged for contacting these lawyers for more information. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

# McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP

140 Fullarton Street, Suite 1800

London, ON N6A 5P2

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Email: christina.wolfe@mckenzielake.com

# (14) How will the lawyers representing the Settlement Class be paid?

At the same time as or following the Settlement Approval Hearing, Class Counsel will ask the Court for approval of the payment of their fees and other expenses. The Court may award something less than the amount requested by Class Counsel.

You may continue to check on the progress of Class Counsel's request for fees and expenses by visiting <u>www.laurentiandataclassaction.com</u>.

## (15) What if I don't agree with the Settlement?

If you are a Settlement Class Member, you can tell the Court that you don't agree with the Settlement or some part of it by filing an objection. In an objection, you can give the Court reasons why you think the Court should not approve the Settlement. The Court will consider your views. To object, you must serve Class Counsel with a signed written notice ("Objection Form") on or before **MAY 29, 2025** (20 days prior to the approval hearing). Objections submitted after this date will not be considered. Be sure to include the following information:

- (a) a heading that refers to the Action and court file number (i.e. Sarah Connell v. Laurentian University of Sudbury, Court File No. 1076/17 CP).
- (b) your name, address, telephone number and email address, and if represented by counsel, the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of counsel;
- (c) a statement as to whether you intend to appear at the Settlement Approval Hearing;
- (d) a declaration that you consider yourself to be included in the Settlement Class;
- (e) a statement of the objection and the grounds supporting the objection;
- (f) copies of any papers, briefs or other documents upon with the objection is based; and
- (g) your signature.

If you want to speak at the Settlement Approval Hearing, you must indicate that you intend to do so in your Objection Form. You can hire a lawyer to appear on your behalf at your own expense or you may appear yourself. If you do not state your intention to appear in your Objection Form, or you do not submit a signed and completed Objection Form before **MAY 29, 2025**, you will waive all objections and can be barred from speaking at the Approval Hearing.

#### (16) What is the Settlement Approval Hearing?

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement and Class Counsel Fees. You may attend and you may ask to speak, subject to the requirements above, but you do not have to attend.

## (17) When is the Settlement Approval Hearing?

The Settlement Approval Hearing will take place on:

• JUNE 18, 2025: Ontario Superior Court of Justice,

At this Settlement Approval Hearing, the Court will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. The Court will listen to Settlement Class Members who have asked to speak at the Settlement Approval Hearing. After the Settlement Approval

Hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the Settlement. We do not know how long this decision will take.

# (18) Do I have to attend the Settlement Approval Hearing?

No, you do not need to attend the Settlement Approval Hearing, but you are welcome to attend at your own expense.

If you submit an objection, you do not need to attend in Court to talk about it. As long as you have served your signed and completed Objection Form on time, the Court will consider it. You may also attend or pay your own lawyer to attend, but it is not necessary.

Settlement Class Members do not need to attend the Settlement Approval Hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval of the Settlement. Class Counsel will answer any questions that the Court may have.

# (19) What happens if I do nothing at all?

If the Court approves the Settlement and you do nothing at all, you will not receive any compensation from the Settlement. In order to receive compensation in the Settlement, you must submit a Claim Form with the supporting evidence specified on the Claim Form. Unless you previously and validly excluded yourself (opted out), you won't be able to start a lawsuit, continue a lawsuit, or be part of any other lawsuit against Laurentian about the legal issues in this class action.

However, even if you take no action, you will keep your right to sue Laurentian for any other claims not resolved by the Settlement, subject to any applicable limitation periods.

## (20) How can I get more information?

This Notice summarizes the essential terms of the Settlement. The Settlement Agreement and its Schedules, which you can view at <u>www.laurentiandataclassaction.com</u>, describe in greater detail the rights and obligations of all the Parties. If there is any conflict between this Notice and the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Agreement governs.

Neither the Parties nor their counsel make any representation regarding the tax effects, if any, of receiving any benefits under this Settlement. Consult your tax adviser for any tax questions you may have.

If you have any questions regarding the Settlement or about the class action lawsuit in general, information is available by contacting Class Counsel directly:

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