

GRATL & COMPANY

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT APPROVAL IN METHADONE CLINIC FEE CLASS ACTION

If you received income assistance or disability assistance payments after November 4, 2009 and you received methadone treatment through a private methadone clinic, you should read this notice carefully. **A settlement of this class action has been approved by the Court.**

A. WHAT IS A CLASS ACTION?

A class action is a lawsuit filed by one person on behalf of a large group of people.

B. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE CLASS ACTION?

You are affected by this class action if you are a person who had methadone clinic fees deducted from one or more income assistance or disability assistance payments after November 4, 2009. The class was certified on December 1, 2017 and Laura Shaver was appointed as the class representative.

C. WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT APPROVED BY THE COURT?

The terms of settlement approved by the Court require the Province to make repayment of 70% of all methadone clinic fees deducted from income or disability assistance payments after November 4, 2009, plus interest.

FOR CLASS MEMBERS RECEIVING INCOME ASSISTANCE OR DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 2018, PAYMENTS WILL BEGIN ON OR BEFORE JUNE 15, 2018.

The rate of repayment is a maximum of \$150.00 per month, until the entire amount owed to each class member is fully paid.

For example, if you are entitled to receive \$60.00 under the proposed settlement, the full amount of \$60.00 would be paid in full in the first payment. If you are entitled to receive \$375.00 under the proposed settlement, you would receive \$150.00 for the first monthly payment, \$150.00 for the second monthly payment, and \$75.00 for the third monthly payment to complete the payment in full.

If you have any questions about the terms of settlement or how they apply to you please consult www.gratlandcompany.com or inquire with legal counsel by email at clinicfees@gratlandcompany.com or call 604-694-1919/1-866-230-2752 (from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time) to speak to legal counsel or an administrator.

A settlement is when a defendant agrees to pay money to the members of the class action in exchange for being released from the case. A settlement is not an admission of liability.

D. WHEN AND HOW DO I RECEIVE PAYMENT?

For class members receiving income assistance or disability assistance as of February 15, 2018, payments will commence before **June 15, 2018**. The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction are working with class counsel to ensure that payment amounts to each class member are calculated as accurately as possible.

If you are receiving income or disability assistance as of February 15, 2018, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction will make payments directly to you by cheque or electronic funds transfer. These payments will be made off-cycle (monthly but on a different date than the usual payment). Payments will be a maximum of \$150 per month until each class member is paid in full.

If you are not currently receiving income or disability assistance, you will need to **register for payment by contacting class counsel on or before February 15, 2019.**

You can register:

- online at www.gratlandcompany.com if you have internet;
- by contacting class counsel by telephone at 604-694-1919/1-866-230-2752 (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific time); or
- by attending in person at the office of class counsel at 604-510 W Hastings Street in Vancouver; or
- by emailing to clinicfees@gratlandcompany.com.

You will need to fill out a registration form and confirm your identity. You need not have photo ID to be eligible for payment, but if you do not have photo ID you will need to attend the office of class counsel to confirm your identification.

Payments owed to persons who are deceased will be put into a fund to be used to benefit persons on methadone or other opioid treatment. The fund will be administered by the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users for the benefit of persons receiving methadone or other opiate agonist treatment. If you are the executor or administrator of

the estate of a deceased class member, you can have the settlement funds paid directly to the estate by contacting class counsel.

E. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO RIGHT NOW?

If you believe yourself to be a member of this class action, and you are receiving income assistance or disability assistance as of February 15, 2018, you do not need to do anything as payment should be forwarded to you by the Ministry. However, you should contact the office of class counsel:

- If you do not receive your first payment before June 15, 2018; or
- If you believe that you have been underpaid.

If you are not receiving income assistance or disability assistance as of February 15, 2018, you must fill out a registration form in order to receive payment. You may register online at www.gratlandcompany.com, by calling class counsel at 604-694-1919/1-866-230-2752, by emailing clinicfees@gratlandcompany.com or by attending the office of class counsel at 604-510 West Hastings Street in Vancouver. The deadline for submitting registration forms is **February 15, 2019**.

F. WHERE CAN I ASK MORE QUESTIONS?

For more information, please visit www.gratlandcompany.com. If you have questions that are not answered online, please contact class counsel by email at clinicfees@gratlandcompany.com or at 604-694-1919/1-866-230-2752 (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific time).

G. INTERPRETATION

This notice contains a summary of the key terms of the settlement agreement. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this notice and the settlement agreement, the terms of the settlement agreement shall prevail.

This notice has been approved by the Supreme Court of British Columbia.