



## MEMO

TO: All Priests, Deacons, Staff and Parishes  
FROM: Aurea Sadi, Communications  
DATE: June 5, 2020  
RE: Class Action Lawsuit

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Yesterday during the parish leadership gathering, Archbishop Mancini shared an update on a class action lawsuit that has been filed against the archdiocese. Again, it is important to note that this is not a new lawsuit. It was filed in the Nova Scotia Supreme Court in August of 2018. The class action was certified at the end of March and we now enter a notification phase as part of the lengthy and complicated process of this legal action. This phase requires particular actions on the part of the diocese and all our parishes.

We are required *by law* to post on the diocesan website and all parish websites, electronic notice of the option to opt-out of the class action. That is, individuals who allege they have been sexually abused by a priest of the Archdiocese have the right to opt-out of this legal process. The lawyers involved have provided us with the required text for this notice. It is a long document and we are expected to post it *in its entirety and as written* on our websites starting on **June 12 until October 12, 2020**.

To help prepare pastors, parishes, and all the faithful to receive the news of the class action suit we are providing you with the following resources:

- A. A video message Archbishop addressing the situation
- B. Directions for posting the Opt Out Long Form Notice on your parish website
- C. Frequently Asked Questions

### **A. Video Message From Archbishop Mancini**

The Bishop recorded a video message to the faithful to provide context for the class action. This message will be posted to the diocesan website on Friday, June 12, 2020. When it is available we ask you to share it widely with your communities.

### **B. Directions for Public Notice of the Class Action**

As part of the terms of the notice period, the diocese and our parishes are legally required to:

*“Post a copy of the Long Form Notice (attached) in a conspicuous area on the websites of each parish, that has an active website, of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Halifax*

*and the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Yarmouth for the duration of the notice period (June 12, 2020 to October 12, 2020)."*

To comply with this order, parishes must:

1. Post the attached long form notice, without any changes, in PDF form on your website. Because it is a lengthy document you may want to dedicate the notice to its own page on your website.
2. Create a button or box on the **front page** of your parish website that clearly directs visitors to the notice. Wording for that button or box:  
Notice of Class Action Against the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth – Click here.
3. This notice **cannot** be altered in any way and must go "live" on **Friday, June 12**. It is to remain live on the parish website until **October 12, 2020**.

A PDF of the Long Form Notice is attached.

The Long Form Notice will also be posted on [www.halifaxyarmouth.org](http://www.halifaxyarmouth.org) and a short form of the notice will also be posted to the weekly Halifax-Yarmouth News Service four times during the notification period.

### **C. Frequently Asked Questions**

To help you understand the class action and assist you in answering questions you may receive, we have attached a Frequently Asked Questions document. This can also be found on our diocesan website: [www.halifaxyarmouth.org/classaction](http://www.halifaxyarmouth.org/classaction)

Your PL&NE Office contact person will be in touch next week to answer any questions or provide any other assistance that you may need. A reminder that if you receive any media inquiries about the class action please direct them to Aurea Sadi: 902.429.9800 ext 310, cell 902.802.5486 or email: [asadi@halifaxyarmouth.org](mailto:asadi@halifaxyarmouth.org)

We greatly appreciate your cooperation with the publication of this notice. Please contact Aurea if you have immediate questions or need further assistance.