

OVERVIEW OF THE CLASS ACTION

May 2015. After 17 years of legal proceedings, the Superior Court of Québec ruled in favour of the CQTS and tobacco victims by ordering Imperial Tobacco, Rothmans, Benson and Hedges, and JTI-Macdonald to pay **\$15 billion in moral and punitive damages to 100,000 Québec victims of tobacco.**

AN UNEQUIVOCAL RULING

In his 276-page ruling, Superior Court Judge Brian Riordan declared that tobacco companies, from 1950 to 1998, violated provisions:

- of the Civil Code of Québec by failing to inform their **clients about the risk and dangers posed by their products;**
- of the Consumer Protection Act by failing to communicate truthful information about their products;
- of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms by violating the right to life and security of the person.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO FOUND MORE AT FAULT

Among the companies sued, the judge assigned greater blame on Imperial Tobacco, the industry's leader, on several fronts, including for hiding the truth from and misleading the public, and mandating a lawyer to destroy internal scientific reports in a bid to avoid legal action.

This ruling stems from a litigation that required **253 days of hearings and saw 76 witnesses questioned, including more than 20 experts, and more than 43,000 documents submitted as proof.**

NEW CHAPTER IN THE COURT OF APPEAL

The battle is not over. Between November 21 and 30, 2016, five Appeal Court of Québec judges heard arguments from tobacco manufacturers attempting to overturn the 2015 ruling. After hearing these arguments and those of representatives of the class action members, the judges took the matter under advisement and will render judgment in 2018.

The legal firms Trudel Johnston & Lespérance, Kugler Kandestin, and De Granpré Chait are representing the victims in this case.