

Conseil québécois sur le tabac et la santé

**Quebec Class Actions**

against JTI-Macdonald, Imperial Tobacco et Rothmans, Bensons & Hedges

**CLAIMS OF THE CLASS ACTIONS**

On May 27, 2015, two class actions came out on the winning side of a lengthy court battle against three Canadian tobacco manufacturers.

For 17 years, the Québec Council on Tobacco and Health (QCTH) pursued a class action lawsuit in the Superior Court of Québec against three Canadian tobacco manufacturers – Imperial Tobacco, Rothmans, Benson & Hedges and JTI-Macdonald – on behalf of 99,957 Québec victims of lung cancer, throat cancer and emphysema caused by smoking. The estate of the late Mr. Jean-Yves Blais is the designated member of this class action.

A second class action, launched by Ms. Cécilia Létourneau, was heard within the framework of the same trial. It represented a group of 918,218 people dependent on nicotine contained in cigarettes manufactured by these same tobacco companies.

The two class actions, launched in 1998, were authorized by Judge Pierre Jasmin in 2005. The proceedings began on March 12, 2012, after seven long years of preparation, and culminated after 251 days of hearings, 76 witness interrogations, and more than 43,000 documents admitted as proof.