

Ontario Pre-Approval Notice

LEGAL NOTICE AUTHORIZED BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE FOR ONTARIO

PACKAGED BREAD CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT – NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES RESIDENT ANYWHERE IN CANADA EXCEPT QUEBEC

If you purchased Packaged Bread anywhere in Canada except Quebec between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2021, your legal rights could be affected.

Class actions have been certified/authorized in Ontario and Quebec on behalf of all Persons in Canada alleging that the defendant bread producers and retailers participated in an unlawful conspiracy regarding the price of Packaged Bread sold in Canada.

Packaged Bread means any and all packaged bread products and bread alternatives produced or distributed by any of the current or future defendants to the actions, including bagged bread, buns, rolls, bagels, naan, English muffins, wraps, pita and tortillas, but not bread frozen when sold and bread baked on-site in the establishment where it is retailed.

THE LOBLAW/WESTON SETTLEMENT

A settlement agreement has been reached for all of Canada with: Loblaw Companies Limited, Loblaws Inc., George Weston Limited, Weston Foods (Canada) Inc., Weston Bakeries Limited, and Weston Food Distribution Inc. (collectively, “**Loblaw/Weston**”). The Loblaw/Weston defendants are the first to enter into a settlement of the class actions. The class actions will continue against the non-settling defendants: Canada Bread Company, Limited, Sobeys Inc., Sobeys Quebec Inc., Sobeys Capital Incorporated, Metro Inc., Wal-Mart Canada Corp. and Giant Tiger Stores Limited.

Loblaw/Weston has agreed to pay CAD **\$500 million** (\$96 million of which has already been paid through the Loblaw Card Program) for the benefit of settlement class members across Canada and to provide co-operation to the plaintiffs in pursuing their claims in the continuing actions against the non-settling defendants. In exchange, settlement class members will give Loblaw/Weston a full release of the claims against them in the class actions in

relation to Packaged Bread. The settlement is not an admission by Loblaw/Weston of liability, fault, or wrongdoing, but is a compromise of disputed claims.

SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARINGS

The Loblaw/Weston settlement must be approved by the Courts in Ontario and Quebec before it can become effective. At the Settlement Approval Hearings, the Courts will determine whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the settlement class members.

The Courts will also be asked to approve a distribution protocol and a claims process governing the payment of the net settlement monies (after deduction of court-approved lawyers’ fees and disbursements, administration expenses, funder entitlements, an ongoing litigation holdback and all applicable taxes) to and for the benefit of settlement class members. If the settlement is approved by the Courts, 78% of the settlement monies will be allocated to the Ontario class action and 22% to the Quebec class action.

The Settlement Hearing for the Ontario class action is to take place at the Superior Court of Justice for Ontario on May 5, 2025, at 10:00 am at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario, Courtroom #5 and, if directed, by video conference at a link to be provided by the Ontario Court in due course.

At the Ontario Settlement Approval Hearing, the lawyers working on the Ontario class action will also be requesting court approval of lawyers’ fees of \$74,100,000 (19% of the recovery allocated to the Ontario class action), plus disbursements and applicable taxes. The Ontario Court will decide the amount the lawyers will be paid out of the settlement monies.

If the Loblaw/Weston settlement is approved by the Courts, a further legal notice will be provided outlining next steps.

THE ONTARIO CLASS ACTION

The class previously certified for the ongoing Ontario class action is: All Persons residing in Canada except Quebec as of December 31, 2021, other than Excluded Persons, who between November 1, 2001 and December 31, 2021, inclusive, purchased, either directly or indirectly, Packaged Bread manufactured and produced by a defendant producer that was sold by a defendant retailer (the “**Ontario Class**”).

For the purposes of the Loblaw/Weston settlement, the Ontario Class was expanded to include purchasers of Packaged Bread manufactured by a defendant bakery but purchased from someone other than a defendant retailer. The definition of the Loblaw/Weston settlement class for the Ontario Action is: All Persons resident anywhere in Canada except Quebec as of December 31, 2021, other than Excluded Persons, who between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2021, inclusive, purchased Packaged Bread, either directly or indirectly, produced or distributed by a defendant (the “**Ontario Settlement Class**”).

The term “**Persons**” used in the definitions above includes individuals and corporations, partnerships, associations and other types of businesses and the term “**Excluded Persons**” used in the definitions above means Persons who opt out of the Ontario class action and the defendants and other related parties.

If you are a potential member of the Ontario Settlement Class and you wish to participate in the Loblaw/Weston settlement, you do not need to do anything at this time.

If you do not opt out now, you will be bound by the Loblaw/Weston settlement if it is approved by the Court, your claims against Loblaw/Weston will be released and you will lose any right you have to begin or continue your own action against Loblaw/Weston, but you may be entitled to make a claim for money from the Loblaw/Weston settlement as provided in the distribution protocol.

OPTING OUT OF THE ONTARIO CLASS ACTION

If you are a potential member of the Ontario Settlement Class and you do not want to participate in the Loblaw/Weston settlement, you must opt out now. By opting out, you will not be able to make a claim for money from the Loblaw/Weston settlement, but you will maintain any right you have to begin or continue your own action against Loblaw/Weston.

The opt out deadline is April 25, 2025. To opt out, you must send a signed written opt out election to the Ontario Settlement Administrator Verita Global, so it is received by midnight PST on April 25, 2025, at the latest. Find out how to do this and what must be included at www.canadianbreadsettlement.ca.

This is your only chance to opt out of the Ontario class action.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SETTLEMENT

If you do not wish to opt out of the Ontario Settlement Class but you wish to comment on or object to the Loblaw/Weston settlement, you must deliver a written submission to the Ontario Settlement Administrator Verita Global, so it is received by midnight PST on April 25, 2025, at the latest. Find out how to do this and what must be included at www.canadianbreadsettlement.ca.

THE DISTRIBUTION PROTOCOL AND CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION

The distribution protocol includes detailed information on the claims process and how payments to and for the benefit of settlement class members will be processed and paid.

The portion of settlement monies allocated to and for the benefit of settlement class members who purchased Packaged Bread for their personal consumption and not for resale will be distributed to those settlement class members who submit a claim for compensation in the claims process that will be established.

The portion of settlement monies allocated to and for the benefit of settlement class members who purchased Packaged Bread for resale in the same or a modified form will be retained in trust and not

distributed at this time. The manner in which these monies will be distributed will be determined by the Courts at a future date.

MORE INFORMATION

It is strongly recommended that you review the Loblaw/Weston settlement, the distribution protocol and answers to frequently asked questions found at www.canadianbreadsettlement.ca.

If you have questions about the Loblaw/Weston settlement, you may contact the Ontario Settlement Administrator:

- *Phone: 1-833-419-4821*
- *Email at bread@veritaglobal.com*

For information on the Quebec class action go to www.QuebecBreadSettlement.ca.

ONTARIO CLASS COUNSEL

Strosberg Wingfield Sasso LLP
www.swslitigation.com

Orr Taylor LLP
www.ortaylor.com

This Notice contains a summary of some of the terms of the Ontario pre-approval order, the Loblaw/Weston settlement agreement and the distribution protocol in the Ontario class action. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this Notice and any of those documents, the terms of the documents shall govern.