

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE CLASS ACTION AGAINST
ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET SCHOOL AND BRUCE MONK
Were you a student at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School at any time between 1984 and 2015, and were you photographed by Bruce Monk in a private setting?
If yes, this Notice is for you, and you are a Class Member.
A settlement has been reached in the class action lawsuit against the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and Bruce Monk, and there will be a court hearing to decide if the settlement should be approved.

If this settlement is approved, then Class Members who attended the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School and were photographed by Bruce Monk in a private setting can submit a claim for compensation.

WHAT IS THIS LAWSUIT ABOUT?

This is a certified class action lawsuit called *Doucet v. Royal Winnipeg Ballet*, court file number CV-16-564335-00CP.

In the action, the Representative Plaintiffs alleged that Bruce Monk photographed RBW students in a private setting, and that many of these photographs were semi-nude or nude. Some of the photographs are alleged to have been posted on the internet. The Representative Plaintiffs alleged that the RWB was responsible at law for Monk's conduct.

Neither the RWB nor Monk has admitted liability. None of the allegations made in the class action have been proven in court. The settlement is a compromise of the parties' positions.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT?

The RWB, on behalf of the Defendants, will pay \$10 million to settle the action. The settlement fund will be distributed to compensate all Eligible Student Class Members, taking into account the impact of the photo shoot(s) on the claimant, and whether images were posted on the internet.

The total compensation each Eligible Student Class Member will receive will depend upon both the total number of claimants, and the severity of the impacts of the photo shoot(s), as well as whether images were posted on the internet.

Each Eligible Student Class Member will be able to claim a one-time payment of \$1,000 for health services (such as counselling).

In addition, Eligible Student Class Members will also be entitled to request a lump sum compensation for their related Family Class Members, which may be valued at up to \$2,500.

Requests for any additional information or questions about the class action or proposed settlement should be directed to Waddell Phillips Professional Corporation by phone at 1-888-684-5545. Class Members may also visit the following website:
<https://waddellphillips.ca/class-actions/royal-winnipeg-ballet-class-action/>.

A copy of the Settlement Agreement is posted there.

Compensation is not yet available to Class Members. If the Court approves the settlement, more information will be provided about how to submit a claim.

If the settlement is approved, the class action will be dismissed in its entirety. The RWB and Monk will receive a release from all Class Members, whether the Class Member receives compensation or not. This means that no Class Members will be able to sue the RWB or Monk in the future for any harm or damage suffered as a result being photographed by Monk while they were students.

Class Counsel are requesting that \$2,250,000 of the settlement fund be allocated towards their contingency legal fees, taxes, and disbursements, which is equivalent to 25% of \$9 million or 22.5% of the total settlement fund. 10% of the net settlement fund, after deduction of legal fees and expenses, will also be paid to the Class Proceedings Fund, which provided financial support to enable the prosecution of the class action lawsuit.

WHAT'S NEXT?

An Ontario Superior Court judge will decide whether to approve the proposed settlement in an online hearing on **February 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** The judge will decide whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class Members, and if the requested legal fees are fair. A request will also be made that the Court approve honoraria to be paid to the Representative Plaintiff and to other Class Members who were instrumental in bringing about the action and prosecuting the claim for the benefit of all Class Members.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO?

You do not have to do anything at this time. You will receive another notice if the settlement is approved, that will explain how you can submit a claim. If you want to audit the settlement approval hearing or make a statement to the court, you can contact us at the address below, and you will be provided with log-in information for the hearing, when it is available.

WHAT IF YOU OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT OR COUNSEL FEES?

If you do not think the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class Members, or you object to the amount of legal fees that are being sought, you can make an objection to the Court in two ways:

- You can send in a statement, which must include your name, contact information, confirmation that you are a Class Member, and an explanation of why you object to the settlement or counsel fees. Class Counsel will file these statements with the Court in a anonymous form, with names and contact information redacted. Statements can be sent by email or mail and must be received by **February 9, 2022** at 11:59 p.m. EST at:

reception@waddellphillips.ca

Waddell Phillips Professional Corporation

Attn: Royal Winnipeg Ballet Class Action

36 Toronto Street, Suite 1120

Toronto, ON M5C 2C5

- You can make submissions to the Court in person at the settlement approval hearing. If you want to address the Court, email reception@waddellphillips.ca by **February 9, 2022** at 11:59 p.m. EST. Details of how to participate in the virtual hearing will be sent to everyone who wishes to speak.