

# News

**November 25, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Class Action Lawsuit Filed Against Hospital for Injuries Caused by Failure of Sterilization**

A class action lawsuit was filed today in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador against Health Labrador Corporation, the hospital board responsible for Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital, Labrador City.

The suit was filed on behalf of residents of the Labrador City area who have been injured by the failure of the hospital to follow proper sterilization procedures at gynecology clinics between October 2001 and March 2003.

The class action may also involve some affected patients from neighboring Quebec.

The class action was filed by Ms. Brenda Rideout, of Labrador City, Newfoundland and Labrador, who has suffered serious mental shock and embarrassment as a result of being informed of the sterilization failures.

The class action lawsuit also seeks damages arising out of the manner in which the hospital disclosed information to affected patients.

"I still don't have my test results" states Ms. Rideout. "The shock of not knowing if you are infected is only part of it. The disclosure of medical information should have been done confidentially, through my physician. Instead, I found out about it on the radio. The letter was delivered to my husband. The testing for infection was done in a clinic where other patients could tell who was involved. My privacy has

been destroyed. My husband and I are mortified."

The hospital authorities took eight months before contacting some 333 patients about their potential infection. "Something happened to force this into the open and they have mishandled it ever since" added Ms. Rideout.

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