

**October 24, 2002**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **"Class Action Lawsuit Filed Against Capers for Hepatitis A Outbreak**

A class action lawsuit was filed yesterday in the Supreme Court of British Columbia against Alfalfa's Canada Inc., carrying on business as Capers Community Markets, on behalf of all persons who were infected or exposed to Hepatitis A after eating Capers food products.

The class action suit was filed on behalf of Mrs. Helen Fakhri who became ill after eating food purchased from Capers in February and March 2002 and was subsequently diagnosed as having been infected with Hepatitis A.

The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority reported that it administered over 6,400 shots of immune serum globulin (ISG) during April 2002 to individuals who had consumed food products purchased from any of Capers three Vancouver-area food markets. Unfortunately, by the time Mrs. Fakhri was diagnosed as having Hepatitis A it was too late for her to be vaccinated. The Health Authority reported that it had identified at least seven confirmed cases of Hepatitis A that may be linked to Capers food products.

Alfalfa's Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of Wild Oats Markets, Inc., a publicly traded company with 102 natural and organic food markets in the United States and Canada.

Hepatitis A is a viral illness that affects the liver. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, fatigue, fever, abdominal pain, dark coloured urine, light or whitish coloured bowel movements and jaundice (yellow colour to skin or eyes).

The lawsuit was filed on Fakhri's behalf by class action lawyer David Klein of Klein Lyons which has offices in Vancouver and Toronto. According to Klein "this outbreak was preventable. Those exposed to the virus are entitled to compensation".

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