

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT APPROVAL

*Martell and Perrier v. The Attorney General of Nova Scotia and
Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority*

Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, Hfx. No. 447198

This Notice is also available in ASL at www.NSDeafSchoolsClassAction.com.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

A judge at the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia has approved a class action settlement.

The class action is about two schools in Nova Scotia for Deaf students, both of which are now closed:

- The Halifax School for the Deaf; and
- The Amherst School (formerly the Interprovincial School for the Education of the Deaf).

The class action alleged that the Province and the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (“APSEA”) were negligent in how they ran the Schools, causing harm to students.

After a hearing on November 28, 2025, the judge said the settlement is fair, and reasonable and in the best interests of the Class.

Eligible claimants must apply by September 21, 2026, to be considered for compensation.

To see the claim form and watch helpful ASL videos, go to the settlement website at www.NSDeafSchoolsClassAction.com.

THE SETTLEMENT

Under the settlement, the Defendants will pay:

- Up to **\$36 million** to former students.
- **\$3 million** for restorative Sharing Circles and support programs for the Deaf community.
- **\$2.5 million** for the costs of administering the settlement.
- **\$15,000 each** to the Representative Plaintiffs who helped bring the lawsuit.
- Up to **\$12,529,710.60** plus HST for the legal fee of Wagners (class counsel), plus \$100,161.40 to reimburse Wagners for their legal expenses.

WHO CAN APPLY?

You can apply if you went to the Halifax and/or Amherst School between 1913 and 1995, and you were a residential student (living at the School), day student (going to class during the day, but returning home at night), or vocational student (doing job training). Vocational students must have been a residential or day student first in order to get money.

If the student died before January 31, 2019, no money is available for them.

If the student died on or after January 31, 2019, their family or estate may get half of the Systemic Harms Payment, described below. These estate claims cannot apply for the IAP Payment, described below.

WHAT PAYMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are two kinds of payments:

1: Systemic Harms Payment (SHP):

This payment is for harmful experiences many students faced at the Schools, like:

- Being punished for using sign language
- Being hit, punished harshly, or called names
- Being treated unfairly

How much money you can get depends on two things:

1. How long you went to the School(s) in total, and
2. What type of student you were—residential, day, or vocational

Residential students receive the highest payment, because students were there 24 hours a day. Day students and vocational students receive 1/3 of that amount, because they didn't board at the Schools.

The more time spent at the Schools, the higher the amount.

For example, someone who was a residential student for one year or less gets \$10,000, but they get \$15,000 if they were there for two years, \$18,000 if they were there for three years, and \$20,000 if they were there for four years. There is an extra \$1,000 for every year after the fourth year.

If many people apply, payments may go down a little, so everyone gets a fair share. If fewer people apply than expected, payments may go up a little, up to 10% more.

Final amounts will be decided after all claim forms are received.

2: Independent Assessment Process Payment (IAP Payment):

The Independent Assessment Process is for students who experienced serious harm from physical or sexual abuse at the Schools. It involves a meeting with an independent evaluator. The meeting can happen in person or online, with sign language interpreters.

This payment is called the Independent Assessment Process Payment, or IAP Payment. It will only be paid if a student experienced different harm than what is covered by the Systemic Harms Payment.

There are two payment levels:

- **Level 1:** \$90,000 to \$100,000
- **Level 2:** \$140,000 to \$150,000

If more people apply than is expected, payments may go down a little, so everyone gets a fair share.

This process is:

- Private and respectful
- Not a court hearing
- You can bring someone to support you

More information about who can apply and what is required is in the claim form. **Learn more by watching ASL videos at www.NSDeafSchoolsClassAction.com.**

HOW TO APPLY

To participate in the settlement, you must fill out a claim form and send it to Verita Global by the deadline, September 21, 2026.

If you filled out an intake form before and sent it to Wagners, that is different. You must fill out this claim form to be considered under the settlement.

If you are applying for someone who died on or after January 31, 2019, you must also send papers that show you are allowed to apply for their estate. The claim form explains what documents are required.

You will not receive any money if you do not submit a claim form by the deadline.

You can download the claim form and watch more helpful ASL videos at www.NSDeafSchoolsClassAction.com.

HOW MUCH IS THE LEGAL FEE?

The law firm of Wagners, in Halifax, has worked on this case since 2015 without any payment.

The judge approved their legal fee of a maximum of \$12,529,710.60, with a first payment of \$10,799,057.90 plus HST and a later payment in an amount that will depend on the total compensation distributed, plus reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$100,161.40.

These legal costs do not come out of your payment.

QUESTIONS?

Verita Global is the company helping with the settlement. The lawyers asked the Court to approve Verita Global for this job, and the Court agreed.

Verita Global is not part of the government or the lawyers. They are a separate, neutral company.

They can help you and answer questions.

You can contact **Verita Global** at:

Email: info@NSDeafSchoolsClassAction.com

Phone: 1-888-999-9616

Or you can contact **Wagners** at:

Email: classaction@wagners.co

Phone: 902-425-7331 / 1-866-455-1355

Verita Global and Wagners are available to take calls through Video Relay Service (VRS) and Teletypewriter (TTY).

Do not contact the Court about this Notice.

