#### CANADA

# PROVINCE OF QUEBEC DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

No: 500-06-001177-225

# SUPERIOR COURT (CLASS ACTION)

\_\_\_\_\_

-and-

TANYA JONES

Petitioners

v.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF QUEBEC

-and-

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

Respondents

# APPLICATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILE RELEVANT EVIDENCE AND EXAMINE THE PETITIONERS

(Art. 574(3) Code of Civil Procedure)

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TO THE HONORABLE JUSTICE MARIE-CHRISTINE HIVON OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF QUEBEC, BEING THE DESIGNATED JUDGE TO HEAR ALL PROCEEDINGS RELATED TO THE PRESENT PROPOSED CLASS ACTION, SITTING IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, THE RESPONDENT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA RESPECTFULLY SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING:

# I - OVERVIEW

- 1. The Respondent Attorney General of Canada (hereafter "AGC"), seeks leave to adduce relevant evidence pursuant to art. 574(3) of the *Code of Civil Procedure* ("C.C.P.") for the purpose of the hearing of the "Modified Application for authorization to institute a class action and to obtain the status of representative as of September 1, 2022" ("Application for authorization").
- 2. The relevant evidence, which the AGC seeks this Court's authorization to file, consists of

# the following:

- a) Exhibits **AGC-1** to **AGC-3**:
  - AGC-1: Sixties Scoop Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement").
  - AGC-2: Order from the Federal Court approving the Settlement Agreement, June 21, 2018: *Riddle v. Canada*, 2018 FC 641.
  - AGC-3: Order from the Federal Court approving the Settlement Agreement, August 2, 2018: *Riddle v. Canada*, 2018 FC 901.
- b) The Written Examinations of the Petitioners, and Tanya Jones, prior to the authorization hearing, on the matters identified at par. 32 below.
- 3. The herein-above mentioned evidence is relevant and essential to a proper determination of whether the Petitioners' proposed class action should be authorized as against the Respondent, the AGC, with respect to the satisfaction of the criteria for leave under art. 575 C.C.P.
- 4. This evidence is limited and proportionate to the nature and magnitude of the proposed class action.
- 5. The evidence regarding the Settlement Agreement is primarily important to assess whether the claim of the proposed representatives and the proposed Nunavik Child Class, at the very least, are released against the AGC, which impact the analysis of the appearance of right (art. 575(2) C.C.P.) and the representative status (art. 575(4) C.C.P.).
- 6. The present Application mirrors the Application of the AGC to file relevant evidence granted by the Court in *Ward c. Procureur général du Québec et al.*, 2021 QCCS 109, a class action that has some overlaps with this proposed class action and in which the Court gave effect to the release of the Settlement Agreement at the authorization stage.

# II - THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO INSTITUTE A CLASS ACTION

7. This proposed class action is brought against the Attorney General of Quebec ("AGQ") and the AGC in relation to damages resulting from child and family services that were said to have been offered in a discriminatory manner to all Indigenous children and families living in Quebec, such as off-Reserve First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children, youth and families living in Nunavik.

- 8. The Petitioners initiated this action on February 21, 2022, on behalf of three classes alleging the discriminatory provision of child and family services to Inuit children, youth and families living in Nunavik.
- 9. On September 1, 2022, the Petitioners filed a *De Bene Esse Motion for permission to modify the Application for authorization*, which, among other things, extended the proposed class action to other Indigenous, non-Inuit persons in Quebec who allegedly suffered the same harms outside Nunavik. This Motion was granted by the Court on January 19, 2023.
- 10. The Petitioners now ask the Court to be appointed as representatives on behalf of five (5) classes with different causes of action, namely:
  - 2.1 All Inuit persons ordinarily resident in Nunavik and registered or entitled to be registered as a beneficiary under The James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement ("JBNQA") or registered with an Inuit land claim organization who between November 11, 1975 and the date of authorization of this action:
    - 2.1.1 Were under the age of 18; and
    - 2.1.2 Were reported to, or otherwise brought to the attention of, the Directors of Youth Protection in Nunavik (*recevoir le signalement*), including, but not limited to, all persons taken in charge, apprehended and placed in care, whether through a voluntary agreement, by court order or otherwise; (the "Nunavik Child Class");
  - 2.2 All Inuit persons ordinarily resident in Nunavik and registered or entitled to be registered as a beneficiary under the JBNQA or registered with an Inuit land claim organization who between November 11, 1975 and the date of authorization of this action:
    - 2.2.1 Were under the age of 18; and
    - 2.2.2 needed an essential service but did not receive such service or whose receipt of the service was delayed by either respondent or their departments or agents, on grounds including, but not limited to, lack of jurisdiction or a gap in services (the "Essential Services Class");
  - 2.3 All parents and grandparents who were providing care to a member of the Nunavik Child Class and the Essential Services Class (...) (the "Nunavik Family Class");
  - 2.4 All Indigenous persons in Québec who:

- 2.4.1 Were taken into out-of-home care between January 1, 1992 and the date of authorization of this action;
- 2.4.2 While they were under the age of 18;
- 2.4.3 While they were not ordinarily resident on a Reserve;
- 2.4.4 By Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (the "Federal Crown") or Her Majesty in right of Québec (the "Provincial Crown"), or any of their agents, and
- 2.4.5 Are not members of the Nunavik Child Class (the "Québec Child Class");
- 2.5 All parents and grandparents who were providing care to a member of the Québec Child Class when that child was taken into out-of-home care (the "Québec Family Class").
- 11. The main causes of action raised against the Respondents are breach of fiduciary duty and constitutional rights, discrimination based on art. 7 and 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, art. 1, 4 and 10 of the Québec *Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms* as well as civil liability under art. 1457 of the *Civil Code of Québec*. The action also grounds liability on the JBNQA and the *Northern Quebec Transfer Agreement*.
- 12. The Petitioners assert that the discrimination took two forms:
  - First, through systemic underfunding, neglect and avoidance of their constitutional and legal duties to the Class, the Respondents failed generations of Indigenous children and youth who came into contact with the child welfare system, notably by:
    - Withholding funding for basic child welfare prevention services available to non-Indigenous Québécois and Canadian children;
    - Failing to adjust funding of child-welfare services to account for the unique circumstances of the Indigenous people, such as the Inuit in Nunavik;
    - Failing to provide adequate protection services to protect Indigenous people, such as the Inuit children experiencing abuse;
    - Scooping Indigenous children;
  - Second, the Respondents deprived Inuit children who required essential health, social and other services (the Essential Services Class) that were substantively equal to those available to non-Indigenous children in Quebec and Canada.
- 13. The Petitioners contend that members of the classes sustained bodily and moral injuries as a direct and immediate consequence of the Respondents' conduct including, but not limited

- to, loss of language, culture, community ties and resultant pain and suffering, psychological trauma and substance abuse.
- 14. The Petitioners seek compensatory, Charter and punitive damages.
- 15. In support of the Application for authorization, the Petitioners filed twenty (20) exhibits; many of them being reports, notably from public inquiries commissions.
- 16. The parties have previously advised the Court of proposed and certified class proceedings that have certain and potential overlaps with this action. The AGC remains interested in continuing discussions with all the parties in order to resolve the overlaps and determine the best way to proceed with this Application for authorization, but no mutually agreeable resolution has yet been achieved.

#### III. THE EVIDENCE THE AGC SEEKS TO ADDUCE

- 17. The documentary evidence relating to the Sixties Scoop Settlement Agreement and the information sought by the examination of the proposed representatives are necessary in order to assist the Court in determining whether the authorization criteria of art. 575 C.C.P. are satisfied, in particular, whether the proposed representatives have demonstrated an arguable case (art. 575(2) C.C.P.) and whether they are proper representatives (art. 575(4) C.C.P.) for the classes.
- 18. This evidence would also assist the Court in determining the class definitions and common questions, should the class action be authorized.

# A. The documentary evidence of the Sixties Scoop Settlement Agreement

- 19. The Settlement Agreement (Exhibit **AGC-1**) has been recognized as an important step in achieving reconciliation with Indigenous people.
- 20. This Settlement Agreement was concluded with the objective of a fair, comprehensive and national resolution of the various class proceedings commenced against Canada in provincial superior courts and the Federal Court in connection with the Sixties Scoop.
- 21. The « Sixties Scoop » is defined in the preamble of the Settlement Agreement as follows:

Between 1951 and 1991, Indian and Inuit children were taken into care and placed with non-Indigenous parents where they were not raised in accordance with their cultural

traditions nor taught their traditional languages.

- 22. Th Settlemen Agreement as appro ed on une 20, 20 8 b the On ario Su erior Co rt, or the class ce tified i *Br wn v. Th Attorn y eneral of C nada* 2018 ONSC 3429.
- 23. The Settlement Agree ment was also proved by the Federal Court of June 21, 2018, in the ree nationwide class actions consolidated into one *omn bus* action, *Riddle*, *Charlie*, and *White* "*R ddle*"), *Riddle v. C na a*, 20 8 F 641. (Exhibit AGC-2) in which the Class statement defined as:
  - A I dian as defi ed n th *Indian Act*) and nuit er ons wh were r moved f om thei ho es in Ca ada betw en anuary 1, 195 and D cember 31, 199 and p ac d in the care of on-Indige ous foster r dop ive p rents ex lud ng any embers o the la s act in in t e Ontar o Su erior C urt of Ju tice styled as rown v. The Attorney Gen ral of Canada (Court File umb r CV-09-00 72025CP).
- 24. Te par ies sub equentl a ende the Settlemen A reement which was he subject o a ew approv 1 order y the Federal Court in *Riddle v. Canada*, <u>2018 FC 01</u>, dated August , 2018 (Ex ibit **GC-3**).
- 25. The Settlem nt A reement provides or come nsation to elicible class mem ers which has been modulated according to the number of claims receive during the claim period.
- 26. In con ideration of Canad 's obli ati ns and ia i ities und r t is Settlemen Agreement, he claims of t e class embes and the lass a whole have been disjoint nued and r leased agains. Cana a in a cordance with ection 10.01 of he Settlement Agreement.
- 27. Desp te the Settlement Agr ement, t e class ction p opo ed by th Petitioners in th present case en ompas es causes o action already released pu sua t to ection 0.01 of he Sett ement A ree ent.
- 28. nde d, the p opo ed N navik Ch ld Clas i very broad an inclu es the clai of the In it persons who were, bet een November 11, 1975 and December 31, 1991, la ed in th care of non-I digeno s oster or adoptive parents
- 29. The Settle en Agreeme t nd he Appro al Orders (Ex ibits GC 1 t AGC-3) hall be admitted in o eviden e o enable h Court to etermine whithe the claims of a portion of the proposed class act on are birred by the oct ine o *res judicata* ("cho e jugée"), by vi tu of a settle ent apprived by the Courts.
- 30. Exhibits **AGC-1** to **AGC-3** are therefore essential to the analysis of the criterion set out at art. 575(2) C.C.P. and to allow the Court to better assess and limit the class definitions,

specifically to ensure that the Court is not called upon to authorize a portion of a class action that is manifestly ill-founded.

#### **B.** The examination of the Petitioners

- 31. The AGC seeks leave of the Court to examine the Petitioners in writing to obtain specific and limited information about their personal situation to confirm whether they are bound by the Settlement Agreement and to clarify their appearance of right regarding the Essential Services Class.
- 32. The examination would consist of approximately ten (10) questions relating to the following subjects:
  - a) Whether the Petitioners opted-out of the Settlement Agreement;
  - b) The date of birth of
  - c) The dates, duration and type of placement(s) and adoption of the Petitioners (allegations pertaining to par. 4.65-4.66; allegations pertaining to Tanya Jones: par. 4.73-4.74);
  - d) The ethnicity of the Petitioner's adoptive, foster care or foster home parents (whether they are Indigenous, and if so, are they First Nation, Métis or Inuit);
  - e) The services requested and the responses received by the Petitioners (allegations pertaining to par. 4,67, 4.70; allegations pertaining to Tanya Jones: par. 4.76).
- 33. The Petitioners and Tanya Jones are Inuit persons. They were both removed from their families and placed in the care of foster or adoptive parents, at least partially, between January 1, 1951 and December 31, 1991, which falls within the period covered by the Settlement Agreement.
- 34. The information sought with regard to their placement in foster care and adoption is necessary in order to provide a more complete picture of their personal situation.
- 35. These clarifications, combined with the information pertaining to the Settlement Agreement, will also assist the Court in determining whether the Representatives have settled their claim against the AGC. This is not only relevant but essential to determine whether the Petitioners have established an arguable case in light of the facts and the applicable law pursuant to art. 575(2) C.C.P. and to better assess their representative status under art. 575(4) C.C.P.
- 36. The AGC is also of the view that the Court should be informed of the services requested

and the responses received by the Petitioners.

- 37. The central characteristic of the Essential Services Class is to have "needed an essential service but did not receive such service or whose receipt of the service was delayed by either respondent or their departments or agents, on grounds including, but not limited to, lack of jurisdiction or a gap in services".
- 38. This relevant and factual context is necessary to properly assess the scope of the claim advanced by the Petitioners with respect to the proposed Essential Services Class, to determine if the authorization criteria are met with respect to this class, and if so, to better assess the scope and the composition of this class.
- 39. Canada proposes that the examination of the Petitioners be conducted in writing, given the limited nature of the questions and answers, which will be brief, or by any other means the Court considers appropriate.
- 40. The above stated evidence is useful, relevant, necessary and proportionate to the nature and complexity of the class action sought to be authorized by the Petitioners.

# FOR THESE REASONS, MAY IT PLEASE THIS COURT TO:

**GRANT** the present Application;

**AUTHORIZE** the Respondent Attorney General of Canada to file the following evidence:

- AGC-1: Sixties Scoop Settlement Agreement ("Settlement Agreement").
- **AGC-2**: Order from the Federal Court approving the Sixties Scoop Settlement Agreement, June 21, 2018: *Riddle c. Canada*, 2018 FC 641.
- **AGC-3**: Order from the Federal Court approving the Settlement Agreement, August 2, 2018: *Riddle c. Canada*, 2018 FC 901.

**AUTHORIZE** the Respondent Attorney General of Canada to examine the Petitioners and Tanya Jones in writing on the matters described at paragraph 32 of the present Application;

**DIRECTS** the Respondent Attorney General of Canada to communicate the list of questions to the Petitioners' counsels within 7 days of the judgment to be rendered on the present Application;

**DIRECTS** the Petitioners to provide their answers to the Respondent Attorney General of Canada within 14 days of the communication of the list of questions;

**THE WHOLE** without costs, unless the present Application is contested.

Montréal, April 3, 2023

# Attorney general of Canada

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# Attorneys of the Respondent, The Attorney General of Quebec

**TAKE NOTICE** that the foregoing Application of the Attorney General of Canada for Authorization to file relevant evidence and examine the Petitioners attached hereto, will be presented for adjudication before to the Honorable Justice Marie-Christine Hivon, sitting in and for the Judicial District of Montréal, at the Montréal Courthouse, situated at 1 Notre-Dame Street East, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1B6, or virtually using the Courthouse Teams link, on May 4, 2023 or at any other date to be determined by the Court of the Class Action Division.

#### DO GOVERN YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

Montréal, April 3, 2023

# Attorney general of Canada

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**Objet:** SERVICE BY EMAIL - 500-06-001177-225 APPLICATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF

CANADA FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILE RELEVANT EVIDENCE AND EXAMINE THE

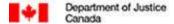
PETITIONERS, LIST OF EXHIBITS AND EXHIBITS AGC-1 TO AGC-3

**Pièces jointes:** 2023-04-03- and Jones v. AGQ and AGC - Application of Defendant AGC to

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adduce relevant evidence.pdf; 2023-04-03- and Jones v. AGQ and AGC - List of

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Ministère de la Justice Canada



# (art. 109, 110 and 134 C.c.p.)

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Cause: -and- TANYA JONES v. ATTORNEY GENERAL OF

QUEBEC -and- ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

**Court number:** 500-06-001177-225

Court: SUPERIOR COURT (CLASS ACTION) DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

Our file: LEX-500082099

Nature of document: APPLICATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA FOR

AUTHORIZATION TO FILE RELEVANT EVIDENCE AND EXAMINE THE PETITIONERS, LIST OF EXHIBITS AND EXHIBITS AGC-1 TO AGC-3

Date: April 3, 2023
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# Nº 500-06-001177-225

SUPERIOR COURT (Class Action Division) District of Montreal

-and-

TANYA JONES

Petitioners

v.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF QUEBEC

-and

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

Respondents

# APPLICATION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA FOR AUTHORIZATION TO FILE RELEVANT EVIDENCE AND EXAMINE THE PETITIONERS

(Art. 574(3) Code of Civil Procedure)

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