

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JOINT PRESS RELEASE BREAST CANCER TESTING CLASS ACTION SETTLES

Eastern Health and Members of the Breast Cancer Testing Class Action jointly announced that late this afternoon they concluded negotiations toward settlement of the class action arising out of errors in ER/PR testing between 1997 and 2005. The monetary value of the settlement is approximately \$17.5 million.

“No amount of money can adequately compensate people who have experienced this kind of error in their medical treatment”, said Vickie Kaminski, President and CEO of Eastern Health. “This settlement is meant to demonstrate Eastern Health’s sincere apology to the Class members and their families and to provide some recognition of their ongoing struggles.”

Class representative Verna Doucette drove from her home on the Port aux Port Peninsula to attend the mediation in St. John’s, but fell ill with H1N1 influenza on the first day. The committee of class members carried on three days of negotiations on her behalf. The mediator was Hon. George Adams, Q.C., a former Ontario Superior Court judge.

“Class Members wanted a financial settlement that demonstrated sincerity and respect”, stated Rosalind Jardine, a committee member. “This settlement does that.”

Ms. Kaminski added that “I want to thank the members of the negotiating committee and Ms. Doucette for putting in the time and effort that allowed us to reach closure and put healing within reach.”

Non-monetary elements of the deal include membership on an oversight committee, a suitable memorial, and a consultant to report in 2012 on progress in implementing the Cameron recommendations.

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