Court File No. CV-19-615862-00CL Court File No. CV-19-616077-00CL Court File No. CV-19-616779-00CL

# ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

BETWEEN:

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c.C-36, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **JTI-MACDONALD CORP.** 

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **IMPERIAL TOBACCO CANADA LIMITED** AND **IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY LIMITED** 

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **ROTHMANS**, **BENSON & HEDGES INC**.

**Applicants** 

## RESPONDING FACTUM OF THE HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF CANADA (MOTION FOR CCAA AMENDMENT ORDERS)

March 2, 2025

**Tyr LLP** 

488 Wellington Street West Suite 300-302 Toronto, ON M5V 1E3

Fax: 416-987-2370

James Bunting (LSO# 48244K)

Email: jbunting@tyrllp.com Tel: 647.519.6607

Sam Cotton (LSO# 84324T)

Email: scotton@tyrllp.com
Tel: 613.862.9264

Lawyers for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

TO: THE COMMON SERVICE LIST See Schedule "C"

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#### A. Overview

- 1. Heart & Stroke<sup>1</sup> files these submissions in response to the relief requested by Ernst & Young Inc., Deloitte Restructuring Inc., and FTI Consulting Canada Inc. (the "Monitors") in their respective motions for CCAA Plan Amendment Orders returnable March 3, 2025 (the "Amendment Motions"). Heart & Stroke opposes the approval of the respective Third Amended and Restated Plans of Compromise and Arrangement of the Tobacco Companies (the "Amended Plans").
- 2. The Amended Plans do not cure the fatal deficiencies in the scope of the Cy-près Foundation. The Cy-près Foundation does not include reduction and prevention measures, and the Plans do not provide, appropriately or at all, compensation and consideration to the FTH Stakeholders. The Plans are not, therefore, fair and reasonable and cannot be approved.
- 3. The Amendment Motions do, however, highlight the flexible nature of CCAA proceedings and the fact that the Plans presented to the Court on January 29, 2025 can be changed, including to address concerns about fairness, and that the Court can exercise its equitable jurisdiction to make changes. Accordingly, Heart & Stroke submits that the Court's decision on these Amendment Motions, and the Sanction Hearing more broadly, is not a binary choice between plan approval and a return to litigation.
- 4. Heart & Stroke's objective is for the Plans approved by this Court to be fair and reasonable and to adequately consider and address the interests of Future Tobacco

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalized terms have the meaning provided for in the Responding Factum of the Heart & Stroke dated January 24, 2025 (the "**Responding Factum**").

Harm Stakeholders. Prevention and mitigation measures are clearly appropriate and necessary to the fairness of the Plans. No meaningful or cogent explanation has been provided for the exclusion of these measures and Heart & Stroke opposes Plans that do not include these measures.

- 5. This Court should reject a forced choice between approving a Plan that does not include prevention and mitigation measures and one that does. Instead, this Court should adopt one of the two following paths:
  - (a) Conditionally approve the CCAA Plans, with or without the proposed amendments, on the basis the Cy-près Foundation mandate be revised to include reduction or prevention measures and if it is not for the Court to be provided with evidence explaining who objects to the inclusion of these measures within the mandate of the Foundation and why; or
  - (b) Directly amend the CCAA Plans to include prevention and reduction measures with the scope of the Cy-près Foundation pursuant to s. 6(2) of the CCAA or this Court's inherent equitable jurisdiction.

#### B. Excluding Reduction and Prevention Remains Unjustified

- 6. Heart & Stroke objects to the approval of the Amended Plans on the same grounds that it objected at the Sanction Hearing, as detailed in its Responding Factum and in oral submissions.
- 7. The Monitors' Amended Plans and latest reports do not address this absence. It is glaring that no justifiable explanation has been provided by the Monitors, the Tobacco

Companies, or any other party to explain why the scope of the Cy-près Foundation continues to expressly exclude reduction and prevention measures from its mandate. This omission stands in stark contrast to the undisputed fact that reduction and prevention measures are the obvious way to provide consideration to those individuals who are not yet receiving compensation under the CCAA Plans.

- 8. At the Sanction Hearing, Heart & Stroke discussed whether this Court was caught in the horns of a dilemma between two bad options: 1) sanctioning the CCAA Plans in their current form, despite the lack of consideration for uncompensated future tobacco users; or 2) refuse to sanction the CCAA Plans and return to litigation. Heart & Stroke submits that if the Court is on the horns of a dilemma, it must understand why so it can make a fair choice in the circumstances. In this regard, there are two primary potential objectors to the exclusion of prevention and mitigation measures from the mandate of the Foundation:
  - (a) If it is the Tobacco Companies who are objecting to the inclusion of prevention and mitigation measures, the Court should know why and understand the concerning context in which that position unfolds. These proceedings are rooted in the Tobacco Companies being held liable for prioritized profits over protecting the health of Canadians. If the Tobacco Companies are taking this same position again by excluding reduction and prevention measures from the scope of the Cy-près Foundation, this is relevant to whether the Plans can be fair and reasonable and a factor the Court should consider.

- (b) If Class Counsel and the Provinces/Territories are objecting to the inclusion of these measures, this highlights the conflicts of interest previously raised and set out by Heart & Stroke. The addictive nature of tobacco will inevitably result in negative health impacts on the FTH Stakeholders through their continued use of tobacco products, but this continued use is necessary to pay out existing claims. Class members and the Provinces/Territories therefore rely on the FTH Stakeholders' future use of tobacco products to fund their existing claims at the expense of the health, well-being and longevity of the FTH Stakeholders. If it is this inherent conflict that has resulted in the exclusion of reduction and prevention measures from the mandate of the Cy-près Foundation, there are very serious procedural and substantive concerns that impact the fairness and reasonableness of the Plans. This would be a very important factor to be considered by the Court.
- 9. Simply put, if this Court is truly on the horns of a dilemma, it should have the relevant evidence, information and positions to allow it to determine whether the Plans are fair and reasonable despite the exclusion of reduction and prevention measures. The Court would then be in a position to make a fully informed decision on what choice to make.

#### C. The Court Can Modify the Cy-près Foundation's Mandate

10. Just as the Monitors request this Court to exercise its equitable jurisdiction and statutory powers to accept an 11<sup>th</sup> hour amendment to the CCAA Plans, Heart & Stroke

emphasises that this Court has the jurisdiction to cure the limited mandate of the Cy-près Foundation.

11. As previously advanced by Heart & Stroke at the Sanction Hearing, this Court may exercise its inherent equitable jurisdiction in this regard. The Court is also specifically empowered to amend the scope of the Cy-près Foundation under s. 6(2) of the CCAA which states:

#### Court may order amendment

6(2) If a court sanctions a compromise or arrangement, it may order that the debtor's **constating instrument** be amended in accordance with the compromise or arrangement to reflect any change that may lawfully be made under federal or provincial law.<sup>2</sup> [emphasis added]

12. There is limited jurisprudence interpreting s. 6(2) and the scope of "constating instrument" therein and the CCCA does not define this term. However, "constate" is commonly understood to mean "to establish" and "instrument" is defined broadly in *Black's Law Dictionary*, 12<sup>th</sup> edition:

**Instrument 1.** A written legal document that defines rights, duties, entitlements, or liabilities, such as a statute, contract, will, promissory note, or share certificate.<sup>4</sup>

13. An 'instrument' is also generally understood to "embrace contracts, deeds, statutes, wills, Orders in Council, orders, warrants, schemes, letters patent, rules, regulations, by-laws…".<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> CCAA, s. 6(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Oxford English Dictionary, 2025, s.v. "constate".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Black's Law Dictionary, 12th ed, s.v. "instrument".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Edward Beal, Cardinal Rules of Legal Interpretation 55 (A.E. Randall ed., 3d ed. 1924)

- 14. Here, the Terms of Reference for the Cy-Près Foundation becomes a "constating instrument" of the debtors on a go-forward basis because it is a legal document that defines rights and duties for the Tobacco Companies as they emerge from these proceedings. The Court therefore has the jurisdiction under s. 6(2) of the CCAA to amend s. 9(3) of the CCAA Plans to ensure it is fair and reasonable at the time of sanctioning.
- 15. This Court may also rely on its equitable jurisdiction to amend the Plans to include reduction and prevention measures in the Cy-près Foundations' scope. Courts in CCAA proceedings have an inherent and equitable jurisdiction to advance the purposes of the CCAA.<sup>6</sup> It is also recognized that CCAA courts will in some cases be called upon to assess the broader public interest engaged by aspects of a restructuring.<sup>7</sup> On that basis, Heart & Stroke submits that this Court should exercise its equitable discretion to amend the CCAA Plans to include prevention and reduction measures in the mandate of the Cy-près Foundation.

#### D. Relief Requested

- 16. Based on the foregoing, Heart & Stroke objects to the Monitors' Amendment Motions and requests either of the following relief:
  - (a) Conditionally approve the CCAA Plans, with or without the Proposed Amendments, on the basis that the Cy-près Foundation mandate is revised to include reduction or prevention measures and if it is not for the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Century Services Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General), 2010 SCC 60 at para 64 [Century Services].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Century Services at para 60.

Court to be provided with evidence explaining who objects to the inclusion of these measures within the mandate of the Foundation and why; or

(b) Directly amend the CCAA Plans to include prevention and reduction measures within the scope of the Cy-près Foundation pursuant to s. 6(2) of the CCAA or this Court's inherent equitable jurisdiction.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 2nd day of March 2025.

Tyr LLP

488 Wellington Street West Suite 300-302

Toronto, ON M5V 1E3 Fax: 416-987-2370

James Bunting (LSO# 48244K)

Email: jbunting@tyrllp.com

Tel: 647.519.6607

Sam Cotton (LSO# 84324T)

Email: scotton@tyrllp.com
Tel: 613.862.9264

Lawyers for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

# SCHEDULE "A" LIST OF AUTHORITIES

1 Century Services Inc. v. Canada (Attorney General), 2010 SCC 60

## SCHEDULE "B" TEXT OF STATUTES, REGULATIONS & BY-LAWS

Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (R.S.C., 1985, c. C-36)

#### **Court may order amendment**

**6(2)** If a court sanctions a compromise or arrangement, it may order that the debtor's constating instrument be amended in accordance with the compromise or arrangement to reflect any change that may lawfully be made under federal or provincial law.

### SCHEDULE "C" COMMON SERVICE LIST

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AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF **ROTHMANS, BENSON & HEDGES INC.** 

**Applicants** 

## COMMON SERVICE LIST (as of February 26, 2025)

TO: THORNTON GROUT FINNIGAN LLP
---------------------------------

100 Wellington Street West, Suite 3200 TD West Tower, Toronto-Dominion Centre

Toronto, ON M5K 1K7 Fax: 416-304-1313

#### **Robert I. Thornton**

Tel: 416-304-0560 Email: rthornton@tgf.ca

#### Leanne M. Williams

Tel: 416-304-0060 Email: lwilliams@tgf.ca

#### Rachel A. Nicholson

Tel: 416-304-1153 Email: rnicholson@tgf.ca

<sup>\*</sup> For any additions or questions, please contact Nancy Thompson at nancy.thompson@blakes.com

#### Mitchell W. Grossell

Tel: 416-304-7978 Email: mgrossell@tgf.ca

#### John L. Finnigan

Tel: 416-304-0558 Email: jfinnigan@tgf.ca

#### Rebekah O'Hare

Tel: 416-307-2423 Email: rohare@tgf.ca

#### Rudrakshi Chakrabarti

Tel: 416-307-2425

Email: rchakrabarti@tgf.ca

Lawyers for JTI-Macdonald Corp.

#### AND TO: DELOITTE RESTRUCTURING INC.

Bay Adelaide East 8 Adelaide Street West

Suite 200

Toronto, ON M5H 0A9 Fax: 416-601-6690

#### **Paul Casey**

Tel: 416-775-7172

Email: paucasey@deloitte.ca

#### **Warren Leung**

Tel: 416-874-4461

Email: waleung@deloitte.ca

#### Jean-Francois Nadon

Tel: 514-390-0059 Email: jnadon@deloitte.ca

#### **Phil Reynolds**

Tel: 416-956-9200

Email: philreynolds@deloitte.ca

The Monitor of JTI-Macdonald Corp.

AND TO: BLAKE, CASSELS & GRAYDON LLP

199 Bay Street

Suite 4000, Commerce Court West

Toronto, ON M5L 1A9 Fax: 416-863-2653

Pamela Huff

Tel: 416-863-2958

Email: pamela.huff@blakes.com

**Linc Rogers** 

Tel: 416-863-4168

Email: linc.rogers@blakes.com

**Jake Harris** 

Tel: 416-863-2523

Email: jake.harris@blakes.com

Nancy Thompson, Law Clerk

Tel: 416-863-2437

Email: nancy.thompson@blakes.com

Lawyers for Deloitte Restructuring Inc.,

in its capacity as Monitor of JTI-Macdonald Corp.

AND TO: MILLER THOMSON LLP

Scotia Plaza

40 King Street West, Suite 5800

Toronto, ON M5H 3S1

Craig A. Mills

Tel: 416-595-8596

Email: cmills@millerthomson.com

Lawyers for North Atlantic Operating Company, Inc.

AND TO: MILLER THOMSON LLP

1000, rue De La Gauchetière Ouest, bureau 3700

Montreal, QC H3B 4W5

**Hubert Sibre** 

Tel: 514-879-4088

Email: hsibre@millerthomson.com

Lawyers for AIG Insurance Canada

AND TO: BLUETREE ADVISORS INC.

First Canada Place 100 King Street West

Suite 5600

Toronto, ON M5X 1C9

William E. Aziz

Tel: 416-575-2200

Email: baziz@bluetreeadvisors.com

Chief Restructuring Officer of JTI-Macdonald Corp.

AND TO: STIKEMAN ELLIOTT LLP

Commerce Court West 199 Bay Street, Suite 5300 Toronto, ON M5L 1B9 Fax: 416-947-0866

David R. Byers

Tel: 416-869-5697

Email: dbyers@stikeman.com

Maria Konyukhova

Tel: 416-869-5230

Email: mkonyukhova@stikeman.com

**Lesley Mercer** 

Tel: 416-869-6859

Email: lmercer@stikeman.com

Lawyers for British American Tobacco p.l.c., B.A.T. Industries p.l.c.

and British American Tobacco (Investments) Limited

AND TO: OSLER, HOSKIN & HARCOURT LLP

100 King Street West 1 First Canadian Place Suite 6200, P.O. Box 50 Toronto, ON M5X 1B8 Fax: 416-862-6666

**Deborah Glendinning** 

Tel: 416-862-4714

Email: dglendinning@osler.com

Marc Wasserman

Tel: 416-862-4908

Email: mwasserman@osler.com

#### John A. MacDonald

Tel: 416-862-5672

Email: jmacdonald@osler.com

#### **Michael De Lellis**

Tel: 416-862-5997

Email: mdelellis@osler.com

#### Craig Lockwood

Tel: 416-862-5988

Email: clockwood@osler.com

#### **Marleigh Dick**

Tel: 416-862-4725 Email: mdick@osler.com

#### Martino Calvaruso

Tel: 416-862-6665

Email: mcalvaruso@osler.com

Lawyers for Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited and

Imperial Tobacco Company Limited

#### AND TO: DAVIES WARD PHILLIPS & VINEBERG LLP

155 Wellington Street West Toronto, ON M5V 3J7

#### Natasha MacParland

Tel: 416-863-5567

Email: nmacparland@dwpv.com

#### Chanakya Sethi

Tel: 416-863-5516 Email: csethi@dwpv.com

#### Rui Gao

Tel: 416-367-7613 Email: rgao@dwpv.com

#### **Benjamin Jarvis**

Tel: 514-807-0621 Email: bjarvis@dwpv.com

#### **Robert Nicholls**

Email: rnicholls@dwpv.com

Anisha Visvanatha

Tel: 416-367-7480

Email: avisvanatha@dwpv.com

Ashley Perley, Law Clerk

Tel: 416-566-0463

Email: aperley@dwpv.com

Lawyers for FTI Consulting Canada Inc., in its capacity as Monitor of Imperial

Tobacco Canada Limited and Imperial Tobacco Company Limited

AND TO: MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

101 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10178-0060

Jennifer Feldsher

Tel: 212-309-6017

Email: jennifer.feldser@morganlewis.com

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

One State Street

Hartford, CT 06103-3178

David K. Shim

Tel: 860-240-2580

Email: david.shim@morganlewis.com

US Counsel for FTI Consulting Canada Inc., in its capacity as Monitor of Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited and Imperial Tobacco Company Limited

AND TO: FTI CONSULTING CANADA INC.

79 Wellington Street West Suite 2010, P.O. Box 104 Toronto, ON M4K 1G8

Fax: 416-649-8101

**Greg Watson** 

Tel: 416-649-8077

Email: greg.watson@fticonsulting.com

**Paul Bishop** 

Tel: 416-649-8053

Email: paul.bishop@fticonsulting.com

**Jeffrey Rosenberg** 

Tel: 416-649-8073

Email: jeffrey.rosenberg@fticonsulting.com

Kamran Hamidi

Tel: 416-649-8068

Email: kamran.hamidi@fticonsulting.com

**Carter Wood** 

Tel: 416-844-9169

Email: carter.wood@fticonsulting.com

Monitor of Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited and

Imperial Tobacco Company Limited

AND TO: MCCARTHY TÉTRAULT LLP

66 Wellington Street West

Suite 5300

TD Bank Tower, Box 48 Toronto, ON M5K 1E6 Fax: 416-868-0673

**James Gage** 

Tel: 416-601-7539 Email: jgage@mccarthy.ca

**Heather Meredith** 

Tel: 416-601-8342

Email: hmeredith@mccarthy.ca

**Paul Steep** 

Tel: 416-601-7998

Email: psteep@mccarthy.ca

**Trevor Courtis** 

Tel: 416-601-7643

Email: tcourtis@mccarthy.ca

**Deborah Templer** 

Tel: 416-601-8421

Email: dtempler@mccarthy.ca

Lawyers for Rothmans, Benson & Hedges, Inc.

AND TO: LAPOINTE ROSENSTEIN MARCHAND MELANÇON LLP

1 Place Ville Marie, Suite 1300

Montreal, QC H3B 0E6

Mireille Fontaine

Tel: 514-925-6342

Email: mireille.fontaine@lrmm.com

Lawyers for the Top Tube Company

AND TO: TORYS LLP

79 Wellington St. West, Suite 3000

Box 270, TD Centre Toronto, ON M5K 1N2 Fax: 416-865-7380

**Scott Bomhof** 

Tel: 416-865-7370

Email: sbomhof@torys.com

**Adam Slavens** 

Tel: 416-865-7333

Email: aslavens@torys.com

**Alec Angle** 

Tel: 416-865-7534 Email: aangle@torys.com

Lawyers for JT Canada LLC Inc. and PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.,

in its capacity as receiver of JTI-Macdonald TM Corp.

AND TO: PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

PwC Tower

18 York St., Suite 2600 Toronto, ON M5J 0B2 Fax: 416-814-3210

**Mica Arlette** 

Tel: 416-814-5834

Email: mica.arlette@pwc.com

**Tyler Ray** 

Email: tyler.ray@pwc.com

Receiver and Manager of JTI-Macdonald TM Corp.

AND TO: BENNETT JONES

100 King Street West

**Suite 3400** 

Toronto, ON M5X 1A4 Fax: 416-863-1716

#### Mike Eizenga

Tel: 416-777-4879

Email: eizengam@bennettjones.com

#### Sean Zweig

Tel: 416-777-6254

Email: zweigs@bennettjones.com

#### **Jesse Mighton**

Tel: 416-777-6255

Email: mightonj@bennettjones.com

#### **Preet Gill**

Tel: 416-777-6513 gillp@bennettjones.com

#### **SISKINDS**

275 Dundas Street, Unit 1 London, ON N6B 3L1

#### Andre I.G. Michael

Tel: 519-660-7860

Email: andre.michael@siskinds.com

#### **James Virtue**

Tel: 519-660-7898

Email: jim.virtue@siskinds.com

#### **Jeffrey Leon**

Email: jsleon1591@gmail.com

#### **Michael Peerless**

Email: mike.peerless@peerlesslaw.com

Lawyers for the Province of British Columbia, Province of Manitoba, Province of New Brunswick, Province of Nova Scotia, Province of Prince Edward Island, Province of Saskatchewan, Government of Northwest Territories, Government of Nunavut, and Government of Yukon in their capacities as plaintiffs in the HCCR Legislation claims

#### AND TO: MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Legal Services Branch 1001 Douglas Street Victoria, BC V8W 2C5 Fax: 250-356-6730

rax. 230-330-07.

Peter R. Lawless

Tel: 250-356-8432

Email: peter.lawless@gov.bc.ca

AND TO: KSV ADVISORY INC.

150 King Street West Suite 2308, Box 42

Toronto, ON M5H 1J9 Fax: 416-932-6266

**Noah Goldstein** 

Tel: 416-932-6207

Email: ngoldstein@ksvadvisory.com

**Bobby Kofman** 

Email: bkofman@ksvadvisory.com

Jordan Wong

Tel: 416-932-6025

Email: jwong@ksvadvisory.com

Financial Advisory for the Provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, in their

capacities as plaintiffs in the HCCR Legislation claims

AND TO: MINISTRY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Crown Law Office - Civil 720 Bay Street, 8th Floor

Toronto, ON M7A 2S9 Fax: 416-326-4181

**Jacqueline Wall** 

Tel: 416-434-4454

Email: jacqueline.wall@ontario.ca

Lawyers for His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario

AND TO: FISHMAN FLANZ MELAND PAQUIN LLP

Place du Canada

1010 de la Gauchetière St. West, Suite 1600

Montreal, QC H3B 2N2

**Avram Fishman** 

Email: afishman@ffmp.ca

Mark E. Meland

Tel: 514-932-4100 Email: mmeland@ffmp.ca

Margo R. Siminovitch

Email: msiminovitch@ffmp.ca

**Jason Dolman** 

Email: jdolman@ffmp.ca

Nicolas Brochu

Email: nbrochu@ffmp.ca

**Tina Silverstein** 

Email: tsilverstein@ffmp.ca

**CHAITONS LLP** 

5000 Yonge Street 10th Floor Toronto, ON M2N 7E9

**Harvey Chaiton** 

Tel: 416-218-1129

Email: harvey@chaitons.com

**George Benchetrit** 

Tel: 416-218-1141

Email: george@chaitons.com

TRUDEL JOHNSTON & LESPÉRANCE

750, Cote de la Place d'Armes, Bureau 90

Montréal, QC H2Y 2X8 Fax: 514-871-8800

Philippe Trudel

Tel: 514-871-8385, x203 Email: philippe@tjl.quebec

**Bruce Johnston** 

Tel: 514-871-8385, x202 Email: bruce@tjl.quebec

André Lespérance

Tel: 514-871-8805 Email: andre@tjl.quebec

#### **KUGLER KANDESTIN s.e.n.c.r.l., LLP**

1 Place Ville-Marie, Suite 1170 Montréal, QC H3B 2A7

#### **Gordon Kulger**

Tel: 514-360-2686

Email: gkugler@kklex.com

#### **Robert Kugler**

Tel: 514-360-8882

Email: rkugler@kklex.com

Lawyers for Conseil québécois sur le tabac et la santé, Jean-Yves Blais and

Cécilia Létourneau (Quebec Class Action Plaintiffs)

#### AND TO: KLEIN LAWYERS LLP

100 King Street West, Suite 5600

Toronto, ON M5X 1C9

#### **Douglas Lennox**

Tel: 416-506-1944

Email: dlennox@callkleinlawyers.com

#### KLEIN LAWYERS LLP

400 – 1385 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vancouver, BC V6H 3V9

#### David A. Klein

Email: dklein@callkleinlawyers.com

#### Nicola Hartigan

Tel: 604-874-7171

Email: nhartigan@callkleinlawyers.com

Lawyers for the representative plaintiff, Kenneth Knight, in the certified British Columbia class action, *Knight v. Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd.*, Supreme Court

of British Columbia, Vancouver Registry No. L031300

#### AND TO: JENSEN SHAWA SOLOMON DUGID HAWKES LLP

800, 304 – 8 Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2P 1C2

Fax: 403-571-1528

#### Carsten Jensen, QC

Tel: 403-571-1526

Email: jensenc@jssbarristers.ca

Sabri Shawa, QC

Tel: 403-571-1527

Email: shawas@jssbarristers.ca

**Stacy Petriuk** 

Tel: 403-571-1523

Email: petriuks@jssbarristers.ca

PALIARE ROLAND ROSENBERG ROTHSTEIN LLP

155 Wellington Street West, 35<sup>th</sup> Floor

Toronto, ON M5V 3H1

Kenneth T. Rosenberg

Email: ken.rosenberg@pailareroland.com

**Lilly Harmer** 

Email: lily.harmer@paliareroland.com

Massimo (Max) Starnino

Email: max.starnino@paliareroland.com

**CUMING & GILLESPIE** 

4200, 825 – 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW

Calgary, AB T2P 1G1

Laura M. Comfort

Email: laura@cglaw.ca

Lawyers for His Majesty the King in Right of Alberta

AND TO: HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF ALBERTA

9<sup>th</sup> Fl. Peace Hills trust Tower 10011 – 109<sup>th</sup> Street

Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

**Doreen Mueller** 

Email: doreen.mueller@gov.ab.ca

AND TO: STEWART MCKELVEY

1741 Lower Water Street, Suite 600

Halifax, NS B3J 0J2 Fax: 902-420-1417

**David Wedlake** 

Tel: 902-444-1705

Email: dwedlake@stewartmckelvey.com

Eryka Gregory

Tel: 902-44401747

Email: egregory@stewartmckelvey.com

Lawyers for Sobeys Capital Incorporated

#### AND TO: CASSELS BROCK & BLACKWELL LLP

Suite 3200, Bay Adelaide Centre – North Tower

40 Temperance Street Toronto, ON M5H 0B4

#### **Shayne Kukulowicz**

Tel: 416-860-6463 Fax: 416-640-3176

Email: skukulowicz@cassels.com

#### Joseph Bellissimo

Tel: 416-860-6572 Fax: 416-642-7150

Email: jbellissimo@cassels.com

#### **Monique Sassi**

Tel: 416-860-6886 Fax: 416-640-3005

Email: msassi@cassels.com

Lawyers for Ernst & Young Inc, in its capacity as court-appointed monitor of Rothmans, Benson & Hedges, Inc.

#### AND TO:

#### **ERNST & YOUNG INC.**

Ernst & Young Tower 100 Adelaide Street West

P.O. Box 1

Toronto, ON M5H 0B3

#### Murray A. McDonald

Tel: 416-943-3016

Email: murray.a.mcdonald@parthenon.ey.com

#### **Brent Beekenkamp**

Tel: 416-943-2652

Email: brent.r.beekenkamp@parthenon.ey.com

#### **Edmund Yau**

Tel: 416-943-2177

Email: edmund.yau@parthenon.ey.com

Matt Kaplan

Tel: 416-932-6155

Email: matt.kaplan@parthenon.ey.com

Monitor of Rothmans, Benson & Hedges, Inc.

AND TO: GOWLING WLG (CANADA) LLP

1 First Canadian Place

100 King Street West, Suite 1600

Toronto, ON M5X 1G5 Fax: 416-862-7661

**Clifton Prophet** 

Tel: 416-862-3509

Email: clifton.prophet@gowlingwlg.com

**Steven Sofer** 

Tel: 416-369-7240

Email: steven.sofer@gowlingwlg.com

Nicholas Kluge

Tel: 416-369-4610

Email: nicholas.kluge@gowlingwlg.com

Lawyers for Philip Morris International Inc.

AND TO: PALIARE ROLAND ROSENBERG ROTHSTEIN LLP

155 Wellington Street West,  $35^{th}$  Floor

Toronto, ON M5V 3H1

Kenneth T. Rosenberg

Email: ken.rosenberg@pailareroland.com

Lilly Harmer

Email: lily.harmer@paliareroland.com

Massimo (Max) Starnino

Email: max.starnino@paliareroland.com

ROEBOTHAN MCKAY MARSHALL

Paramount Building 34 Harvey Road, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

St. John's NL A1C 3Y7

Fax: 709-753-5221

Glenda Best

Tel: 705-576-2255

Email: gbest@wrmmlaw.com

#### **HUMPHREY FARRINGTON McCLAIN, P.C.**

221 West Lexington, Suite 400 Independence, MO 64050

Kenneth B. McClain

Tel: 816-836-5050

Email: kbm@hfmlegal.com

Lawyers for His Majesty the King in Right of Newfoundland

#### AND TO: WESTROCK COMPANY OF CANADA CORP.

15400 Sherbrooke Street East Montreal, QC H1A 3S2

#### **Dean Jones**

Tel: 514-642-9251

Email: dean.jones@westrock.com

#### AND TO FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF ONTARIO

(FSRA)

Legal and Enforcement Division 25 Sheppard Avenue West, Suite 100

Toronto, Ontario M2N 6S6

#### Michael Spagnolo

Legal Counsel

Tel: 647-801-8921

Email: michael.spagnolo@fsrao.ca

#### AND TO: KAPLAN LAW

393 University Avenue, Suite 2000

Toronto, ON M5G 1E6

#### Ari Kaplan

Tel: 416-565-4656 Email: ari@kaplanlaw.ca

Counsel to the Former Genstar U.S. Retiree Group Committee

AND TO: McMILLAN LLP

**Brookfield Place** 

181 Bay Street, Suite 4400 Toronto, ON M5J 2T3

**Wael Rostom** 

Tel: 416-865-7790

Email: wael.rostom@mcmillan.ca

**Emile Catimel-Marchand** 

Tel: 514-987-5031

Email: emile.catimel-marchand@mcmillan.ca

Lawyers for The Bank of Nova Scotia

AND TO MERCHANT LAW GROUP LLP

c/o #400 – 333 Adelaide St. West

Toronto, ON M5V 1R5

Fax: 613-366-2793

**Evatt Merchant, QC** 

Tel: 613-366-2795

Email: emerchant@merchantlaw.com

Lawyers for the Class Action Plaintiffs (MLG)

AND TO: LABSTAT INTERNATIONAL INC.

262 Manitou Drive

Kitchener, ON N2C 1L3

Andrea Echeverria

Tel: 519-748-5409

Email: aecheverria@labstat.com

AND TO: CHERNOS FLAHERTY SVONKIN LLP

220 Bay Street, Suite 700

Toronto, ON M5J 2W4

Fax: 647-725-5440

**Patrick Flaherty** 

Tel: 416-855-0403

Email: pflaherty@cfscounsel.com

Bryan D. McLeese

Tel: 416-855-0414

Email: bmcleese@cfscounsel.com

#### Clair Wortsman

Email: cwortsman@cfscounsel.com

#### STOCKWOODS LLP

77 King Street West, Suite 4130

TD North Tower, P.O. Box 140, TD Centre

Toronto, ON M5K 1H1 Fax: 416-593-9345

#### **Brian Gover**

Tel: 416-593-2489

Email: briang@stockwoods.ca

#### Justin Safayeni

Tel: 416-593-3494

Email: justins@stockwoods.ca

Lawyers for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco International Inc.

#### AND TO: COZEN O'CONNOR LLP

Bay Adelaide Centre – North Tower 40 Temperance Street, Suite 2700 Toronto, Ontario M5H 0B4

#### **Steven Weisz**

Tel: 647-417-5334 Fax: 416-361-1405

Email: sweisz@cozen.com

#### INCH HAMMOND PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

1 King Street West, Suite 500 Hamilton, ON L8P 4X8

#### John F.C. Hammond

Tel: 905-525-4481

Email: hammond@inchlaw.com

Lawyer for Grand River Enterprises Six Nations Ltd.

#### AND TO: STROSBERG WINGFIELD SASSO LLP

1561 Ouellette Avenue Windsor, ON M8X 1K5 Fax: 866-316-5308 William V. Sasso

Tel: 519-561-6222

Email: william.sasso@swslitigation.com

**David Robins** 

Tel: 519-561-6215

Email: david.robins@swslitigation.com

Lawyers for The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board, plaintiffs in Ontario Superior Court of Justice Court File No. 1056/10CP

(Class Proceedings)

#### AND TO: ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA

Department of Justice Canada Ontario Regional Office, Tax Law Section 120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 400

Toronto, ON M5H 1T1 Fax: 416-973-0810

#### **Edward Park**

Tel: 647-292-9368

Email: edward.park@justice.gc.ca

#### **Kevin Dias**

Email: kevin.dias@justice.gc.ca

Lawyers for the Minister of National Revenue

#### AND TO: LAX O'SULLIVAN LISUS GOTTLIEB LLP

Suite 2750, 145 King Street West

Toronto, ON M5H 1J8

#### **Jonathan Lisus**

Tel: 416-598-7873 Email: jlisus@lolg.ca

#### **Matthew Gottlieb**

Tel: 416-644-5353 Email: mgottlieb@lolg.ca

#### **Nadia Campion**

Tel: 416-642-3134 Email: ncampion@lolg.ca **Andrew Winton** 

Tel: 416-644-5342 Email: awinton@lolg.ca

Lawyers for the Court-Appointed Mediator

AND TO: FOGLER, RUBINOFF LLP

Suite 3000, P.O. Box 95 Toronto-Dominion Centre 77 King Street West Toronto, ON M5K 1G8 Fax: 416-941-8852

Vern W. DaRe

Tel: 416-941-8842 Email: vdare@foglers.com

**CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY** 

116 Albert Street, Suite 500 Ottawa, ON K1P 5G3 Fax: 613-565-2278

**Robert Cunningham** Tel: 613-762-4624

Email: rob.cunningham@cancer.ca

Lawyers for Canadian Cancer Society

AND TO: BLANEY MCMURTRY LLP

2 Queen Street East, Suite 1500 Toronto, ON M5C 3G5

David R. Mackenzie

Tel: 416-597-4890

Email: dmackenzie@blaney.com

**David Ullmann** 

Tel: 416-596-4289

Email: dullmann@blaney.com

Alexandra Teodorescu

Tel: 416-596-4279

Email: ateodorescu@blaney.com

Lawyers for La Nordique Compagnie D'Assurance du Canada

AND TO: ST-PIERRE LÉTOURNEAU 2600, boulevard Laurier, porte760 Ouebec, OC G1V 4T3 **Marc-André Maltais** 418-657-8702, ext. 3107 Email: marc-andre.maltais1@retraitequebec.gouv.qc.ca Lawyers for Retraite Québec AND TO: **LECKER & ASSOCIATES** 4789 Yonge Street, Suite 514 Toronto, ON M2N 0G3 **Kimberley Sebag** Email: ksebag@leckerslaw.com Lawyer for Imperial Tobacco claimant AND TO: McMILLAN LLP 181 Bay Street, Suite 4400 Toronto, ON M5J 2T3 Fax: 416-865-7048 **Brett Harrison** Tel: 416-865-7932 Email: brett.harrison@mcmillan.ca Tushara Weerasooriya 416-865-7890 Tel: Email: tushara.weerasooriya@mcmillan.ca **Guneev Bhinder** 416-307-4067 Email: guneev.bhinder@mcmillan.ca Lawyers for the Province of Quebec AND TO: ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA Department of Justice Canada Ontario Regional Office, L.E.A.D. 120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 400 Toronto, ON M5H 1T1 **Victor Paolone** 647-256-7548 Tel: Email: victor.paolone@justice.gc.ca

AND TO: McMILLAN LLP **Brookfield Place** 181 Bay Street, Suite 4400 Toronto, ON M5J 2T3 Fax: 416-865-7048 **Stephen Brown-Okruhlik** Tel: 416-865-7043 Email: stephen.brown-okruhlik@mcmillan.ca Lawyers for Citibank Canada BORDEN LADNER GERVAIS LLP AND TO: Bay Adelaide Centre, East Tower 22 Adelaide Street West, Suite 3400 Toronto, ON M5H 4E3 Fax: 416-367-6749 Alex MacFarlane 416-367-6305 Email: amacfarlane@blg.com James W. MacLellan Tel: 416-367-6592 Email: jmaclellan@blg.com **Bevan Brooksbank** 416-367-6604 Tel: Email: bbrooksbank@blg.com Lawyers for Chubb Insurance Company of Canada INDUSTRY CANADA, LEGAL SERVICES AND TO: 235 Queen Street, 8th Floor, East Tower Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5 **Adrian Scotchmer** 613-720-6142 Tel: Email: adrian.scotchmer@justice.gc.ca AND TO: **ROCHON GENOVA LLP** Barristers • Avocats 121 Richmond Street West, Suite 900 Toronto, ON M5H 2K1 Fax: 416-363-0263

Joel P. Rochon

Tel: 416-363-1867 x222

Email: jrochon@rochongenova.com

Lawyers for Suzanne Jacklin, Barbara Bourassa on behalf of the Estate of Mitchell David Bourassa, Roderick Dennis McDermid, Linda Dorion, Thelma Adams, Ben Sample and Deborah Kunta, in their capacity as Representative Plaintiffs in certain proposed class proceedings

AND TO: WAGNERS

1869 Upper Water Street, Suite PH301 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Pontac House, Historic Properties

Halifax, NS B3J 1S9 Fax: 902-422-1233

Raymond F. Wagner, K.C.

Tel: 902-425-7330

Email: raywagner@wagners.co

**Kate Boyle** 

Tel: 902-425-7330 Email: kboyle@wagners.co

**Maddy Carter** 

Tel: 902-425-7330

Email: mcarter@wagners.co

Lauren Harper

Tel: 905-425-7330

Email: lharper@wagners.co

Representative Counsel

AND TO: REVENU QUÉBEC

1600, boul. René-Lévesque Ouest

Secteur R23DGR

Montréal, QC H3H 2V2

**Alain Casavant** 

Email: alain.casavant@revenuquebec.ca

AND TO: PELLETIER D'AMOURS

1, Complexe Desjardins Tour Sud, 12e étage

Montreal, OC H5B 1B1

	Geneviève Chabot
	Email: genevieve.chabot@dgag.ca
	Lawyers for Desjardins Assurances
AND TO:	SMART & BIGGAR / FETHERSTONHAUGH
	55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1000
	P.O. Box 2999, Station D
	Ottawa, ON K1P 5Y6
	Kohji Suzuki
	Email: ksuzuki@smartbiggar.ca
	Zimin nouzum e simuteriggarien
	Francois Guay
	Email: fguay@smartbiggar.ca
	Christian Bolduc
	Email: cbolduc@smartbiggar.ca
	Zinani eoonaa eonaarongganea
	Melanie Powers
	Email: mlpowers@smartbiggar.ca
	Matthew Burt
	Email: meburt@smartbiggar.ca
	Zinani meedite sinareigganea
	Lawyers for, and creditor of, Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited and Imperial
	Tobacco Company Limited
AND TO	LODNIN I W DOCEGGIONAL CODDODATION
AND TO:	KORNBLUM LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
	508 Lawrence Avenue West
	Toronto, ON M6A 1A1
	Attention: Susanne Macneall
	Email: s.macneall@kornblum.ca
	Lawyers for Mr. Girsh Nair
AND TO:	TYR LLP
	488 Wellington Street West, Suite 300-302
	Toronto, ON M5V 1E3
	James Bunting
	Tel: 647-519-6607
	Email: jbunting@tyrllp.com

	Sam Cotton
	Tel: 613-862-9264
	Email: scotton@tyrllp.com
	Lawyers for the Heart and Stroke Foundation
AND TO:	HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION
	2300 Yonge Street
	Toronto, ON M4P 1E4
	Emily Sternberg
	Email: emily.sternberg@heartandstroke.ca
AND TO:	TYR LLP
	488 Wellington Street West, Suite 300-302
	Toronto, ON M5V 1E3
	L D L.
	James Doris
	Tel: 647-519-5840
	Email: jdoris@tyrllp.com
	Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice
AND TO:	GOODMANS LLP
	Bay Adelaide Centre – West Tower
	333 Bay Street, Suite 3400
	Toronto, ON M5H 2S7
	Tel: 416-979-2211
	Fax: 416-979-1234
	Gale Rubenstein
	Email: grubenstein@goodmans.ca
	Peter Ruby
	Email: pruby@goodmans.ca
	Joseph Pasquariello
	Email: jpasquariello@goodmans.ca
	Lawyers for PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc. as Liquidator of
	Northumberland General Insurance Company

Courtesy	DEBTWIRE
Copy To:	1501 Broadway, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor
	New York, NY 10036
	John Bringardner
	Tel: 646-378-3143
	Email: john.bringardner@acuris.com
	Global Legal Editor

#### **Email Service List**

rthornton@tgf.ca; lwilliams@tgf.ca; rnicholson@tgf.ca; mgrossell@tgf.ca; jfinnigan@tgf.ca; rohare@tgf.ca; rchakrabarti@tgf.ca; paucasey@deloitte.ca; waleung@deloitte.ca; inadon@deloitte.ca; philreynolds@deloitte.ca; pamela.huff@blakes.com; linc.rogers@blakes.com; jake.harris@blakes.com; nancy.thompson@blakes.com; cmills@millerthomson.com; hsibre@millerthomson.com; baziz@bluetreeadvisors.com; dbyers@stikeman.com; mkonyukhova@stikeman.com; lmercer@stikeman.com; dglendinning@osler.com; mwasserman@osler.com; jmacdonald@osler.com; mdelellis@osler.com; clockwood@osler.com; mdick@osler.com; mcalvaruso@osler.com; nmacparland@dwpv.com; csethi@dwpv.com; rgao@dwpv.com; bjarvis@dwpv.com; rnicholls@dwpv.com; avisvanatha@dwpv.com; aperley@dwpv.com; jennifer.feldsher@morganlewis.com; david.shim@morganlewis.com; greg.watson@fticonsulting.com; paul.bishop@fticonsulting.com; jeffrey.rosenberg@fticonsulting.com; kamran.hamidi@fticonsulting.com; carter.wood@fticonsulting.com; jgage@mccarthy.ca; hmeredith@mccarthy.ca; psteep@mccarthy.ca; tcourtis@mccarthy.ca; dtempler@mccarthy.ca; mireille.fontaine@lrmm.com; sbomhof@torys.com; aslavens@torys.com; aangle@torys.com; mica.arlette@pwc.com; tyler.ray@pwc.com; eizengam@bennettjones.com; zweigs@bennettjones.com; mightonj@bennettjones.com; gillp@bennettjones.com; andre.michael@siskinds.com; jim.virtue@siskinds.com; jsleon1591@gmail.com; mike@peerlesslaw.com; peter.lawless@gov.bc.ca; ngoldstein@ksvadvisory.com; bkofman@ksvadvisory.com; jwong@ksvadvisory.com; jacqueline.wall@ontario.ca; afishman@ffmp.ca; mmeland@ffmp.ca; msiminovitch@ffmp.ca; jdolman@ffmp.ca; nbrochu@ffmp.ca; tsilverstein@ffmp.ca; harvey@chaitons.com; george@chaitons.com; philippe@tjl.quebec; bruce@tjl.quebec; andre@tjl.quebec; gkugler@kklex.com; rkugler@kklex.com; dlennox@callkleinlawyers.com; dklein@callkleinlawyers.com; nhartigan@callkleinlawyers.com; jensenc@jssbarristers.ca; shawas@jssbarristers.ca; petriuks@jssbarristers.ca; ken.rosenberg@paliareroland.com; lily.harmer@paliareroland.com; max.starnino@paliareroland.com; laura@cglaw.ca; doreen.mueller@gov.ab.ca; beatrice.loschiavo@paliareroland.com; natalia.botelho@paliareroland.com; michelle.jackson@paliareroland.com; dwedlake@stewartmckelvey.com; egregory@stewartmckelvey.com; skukulowicz@cassels.com; jbellissimo@cassels.com; msassi@cassels.com; ahoy@cassels.com; murray.a.mcdonald@parthenon.ey.com; brent.r.beekenkamp@parthenon.ey.com; edmund.yau@parthenon.ey.com; matt.kaplan@parthenon.ey.com; clifton.prophet@gowlingwlg.com; steven.sofer@gowlingwlg.com; nicholas.kluge@gowlingwlg.com; gbest@wrmmlaw.com; kbm@hfmlegal.com; dean.jones@westrock.com; michael.spagnolo@fsrao.ca; ari@kaplanlaw.ca; wael.rostom@mcmillan.ca; emile.catimel-marchand@mcmillan.ca; emerchant@merchantlaw.com; jtim.ccaa@merchantlaw.com; aecheverria@labstat.com; pflaherty@cfscounsel.com; bmcleese@cfscounsel.com; cwortsman@cfscounsel.com; briang@stockwoods.ca; justins@stockwoods.ca; sweisz@cozen.com; hammond@inchlaw.com; william.sasso@swslitigation.com; david.robins@swslitigation.com; edward.park@justice.gc.ca; kevin.dias@justice.gc.ca; jlisus@lolg.ca; mgottlieb@lolg.ca; ncampion@lolg.ca; awinton@lolg.ca; vdare@foglers.com; rob.cunningham@cancer.ca; dmackenzie@blaney.com;

<sup>\*</sup> For any additions or questions, please contact Nancy Thompson at nancy.thompson@blakes.com

dullmann@blaney.com; ateodorescu@blaney.com; marc-andre.maltais1@retraitequebec.gouv.qc.ca; ksebag@leckerslaw.com; john.bringardner@acuris.com; brett.harrison@mcmillan.ca; tushara.weerasooriya@mcmillan.ca; guneev.bhinder@mcmillan.ca; victor.paolone@justice.gc.ca; stephen.brown-okruhlik@mcmillan.ca; amacfarlane@blg.com; jmaclellan@blg.com; bbrooksbank@blg.com; adrian.scotchmer@justice.gc.ca; jrochon@rochongenova.com; raywagner@wagners.co; mcarter@wagners.co; lharper@wagners.co; kboyle@wagners.co; alain.casavant@revenuquebec.ca; genevieve.chabot@dgag.ca; ksuzuki@smartbiggar.ca; fguay@smartbiggar.ca; cbolduc@smartbiggar.ca; mlpowers@smartbiggar.ca; meburt@smartbiggar.ca; s.macneall@kornblumlaw.ca; jbunting@tyrllp.com; scotton@tyrllp.com; emily.sternberg@heartandstroke.ca; jdoris@tyrllp.com; john.bringardner@acuris.com; grubenstein@goodmans.ca; pruby@goodmans.ca; jpasquariello@goodmans.ca;

Court File No. CV-19-615862-00CL Court File No. CV-19-616077-00CL Court File No. CV-19-616779-00CL

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C. 1985, c.C-36, AS AMENDED

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF JTI-MACDONALD CORP., IMPERIAL TOBACCO CANADA LIMITED AND IMPERIAL TOBACCO COMPANY LIMITED, AND ROTHMANS, BENSON & HEDGES INC.

# ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE (COMMERCIAL LIST)

Proceeding commenced at TORONTO

# RESPONDING FACTUM OF THE HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF CANADA

# Tyr LLP

488 Wellington Street West Suite 300-302

Toronto, ON M5V 1E3

# James Bunting (LSO# 48244K)

Tel: 647.519.6607

Email: jbunting@tyrllp.com

# Sam Cotton (LSO# 84324T)

Tel 613.862.9264

Email: scotton@tyrllp.com

Lawyers for Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada