

Thursday, June 1, 1995

Gentlemen:

Our client, Mr. Albert Chalut, has given us the mandate to inform you of the following.

Mr. Chalut was born on September 12th, 1909. At the age of twenty-two, our client, like many other young people of his age, started smoking cigarettes. Mr. Chalut smoked regularly without any knowledge of the effects it had on his health.

It is only in 1954 that Mr. Chalut quit smoking completely. Nevertheless, in following years, our client was exposed to secondhand smoke which surrounded him in public places. In addition, a friend of Mr. Chalut, who smoked regularly, continued to do so in our client's home even though he was advised not to do so.

Our client proved to be in excellent health up until a few months ago. First of all, around mid-August 1993, our client's doctors diagnosed him with cancer of the vocal cords. On August 28, 1993, he was operated on for that cancer by Dr. Denis Allaire of St-Jerôme. On or around October 1st, 1993, Mr. Chalut began undergoing chemotherapy treatments with Dr. Gelinat of Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal. These treatments lasted a month. On October 28, 1993, Mr. Chalut contracted pneumonia leading to a cardiac arrest while he was being treated by Dr. Moriconi at Notre-Dame Hospital in Montreal. Following this incident, our client was in a coma for four (4) days and spent the following fifteen (15) days unconscious. At the beginning of 1994, Mr. Chalut had to be hospitalized twice at the Centre Hospitalier de Sainte - Agathe-des-Monts.

All doctors, general practitioners and specialists, who have treated Mr. Chalut are unanimous in that Mr. Chalut's health problems are closely related to tobacco. Consequently, we now hold you responsible for all injuries, prejudice, troubles and inconveniences our client has been subjected to, because of your wrongdoing.

You have, for many years, distributed tobacco products without warning the population of the harmful effects of those products on health. It is only recently, in the past decades, that tobacco has endured negative publicity. You have inflicted many prejudice upon our client, including the loss of life enjoyment. Our client's case is, as you know, a social issue. You will sooner or later have to face the prejudice caused to society in general and in particular, to our client, Mr. Chalut. A link will be established between Mr. Chalut's case and the various non-smokers rights associations such as the Foundation for Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Society. The damages sustained by society are priceless. On the other hand, we evaluate the prejudice endured by our client at \$700,000.00.

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-2-

Consequently, we ask you to forward to us, within 10 days of the reception of this letter, a certified cheque or bank draft to Mr. Alain Legault, In Trust, in the amount of \$700,000 plus \$100,000 to cover the related fees. Should you choose not to proceed with this request, we will have no other choice than to start court proceedings, necessary for the obtention of this amount and, this, without further notice or delay.

PLEASE BE GUIDED ACCORDINGLY.

Legault & Associés, avocats

(unsigned)

Me ALAIN LEGAULT

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