



# WHL CLASS ACTION

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### A lawsuit to pay the players

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A lawsuit has been filed against the WHL and all of its member teams on the basis that former and current major junior hockey players should get paid real wages for playing hockey. It's the quality of play and level of competition provided by the players that generates all the team's revenues. In reality, major junior hockey players are employees, just like NHL players. The lawsuit will try to show this. If we are successful, then former and current players would be entitled to receive minimum wage and overtime pay, just like other young people who work for profit-making businesses.

Up until 2014, most players in the WHL were paid between \$40 to \$60 per week. This is the same amount that has been paid to players going back to the 1970's. Players are expected to maintain demanding practice and game schedules, endure long overnight bus rides, risk getting injured, accept getting cut or traded on a moment's notice, follow orders, and live with strangers away from their homes and families. When teams are making huge profits and franchises sell for millions of dollars, paying players \$40 to \$60 per week is exploitive. Commencing in 2014, players don't even receive this. Instead, they are now only reimbursed for expenses.

Major junior hockey is big-business. For example, the Erie Otters sold for over \$7 million in 2015. The Quebec Ramparts were purchased for between \$20 and \$25 million in 2014. Teams are owned by many of the same people who own NHL teams, by major corporations and by some of Canada's wealthiest families. It's a huge for-profit enterprise where everyone gets paid except the players.

## Leading the Way

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Standard lawsuits are brought by 'plaintiffs.' Class action lawsuits are brought by 'representative plaintiffs.' These are the individuals who agree to have their name published on the Court documents, on behalf of all the class members. Sam Berg (Niagara Ice Dogs) and Luke Walter (Tri-City Americans and the St. John's Sea Dogs) were among the first to become rep plaintiffs, in 2014. Thank you to Sam and Luke for wanting to make a difference by leading the way.

## How Much Money Should the Players Receive?

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Players should receive approximately \$10,000 per season. Read more details at [chlclassaction.com](http://chlclassaction.com) and click on [How Much Money?](#)

## Why Join\* the Class Action?

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In order for us to make sure you are fairly compensated we need to hear from you. If we don't hear from you then we are not able to take your situation into account in determining how much money is needed to compensate the players. Show you want to join the Class Action by **registering with us**. We will be able to keep you in the loop and keep you informed of new developments including any potential settlement.

We also need your support to help win the case. The more players who register, the more likely the Court will rule in favour of the players.

## Who Can Register?

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The lawsuit is open to former and current players who played between 2010 and 2016 for Canadian teams, and between 2008 - 2016 for American teams.

## How To Register


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Go to [chiclassaction.com](http://chiclassaction.com), click on *Join the CHL Class Action* and complete the brief, **confidential** form. You will be registering on a completely confidential database. **It's free. There is no financial obligation.**

## Spread the Word

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Please tell your teammates about the class action by spreading the word!

Spread the word on Twitter:  @CHLClassAction

Spread the word on Facebook:  /chiclassaction

**Have questions? Call us! We're happy to talk with you or your family and all calls are confidential.**

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Call Brendan O'Grady Associate Lawyer at Charney Lawyers

(416) 964-7950 extension 246

or toll free 1-844-LAW-4050 (1-844-529-4050), extension 246

\* Joining the Class Action means that you will be registering on the confidential Class Counsel data base.