



## Canned call-centre workers file \$30M lawsuit

SHARON LEM, TORONTO SUN

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IQT workers take to the streets of Oshawa in July after workers were laid off without notice. (CRAIG ROBERTSON/Toronto Sun)

Bob Brigaitis and Cindy Rupert spent several years of their lives working as operation managers at IQT.

The Oshawa couple were laid off without notice on July 15, along with 1,200 fellow workers in Ontario and Quebec, losing their last two weeks of wages or severance pay.

On Wednesday, the pair filed a \$30-million class-action lawsuit on behalf of 600 employees — \$20 million for unpaid wages and severance plus aggravated and punitive damages of \$10 million.

IQT is an Ontario corporation that operated customer support call centres for Bell Canada in the province.

Many of the employees had been employed for up to 10 years when they were dismissed without warning, Ted Charney, who is representing the plaintiffs, said.

"These IQT employees showed up for work on the Friday hoping to get their pay cheque and instead of getting their pay cheque, they were told to go home and never come back, without two weeks pay, without vacation pay, without severances and their benefits were cut off," Charney said.

He said they are suing IQT Solutions' officers, directors and shareholders in the U.S. because the Canadian shell company has no assets in Canada.

"The allegations in the claim against those behind IQT are extremely disturbing ...The American shareholders who controlled the company should have made sure the company notified the employees well in advance and had a compensation plan in place, instead of abandoning them," Charney said.

He said Bell Canada broke a contract between Bell and IQT, which provided for biweekly or monthly payments under the agreement. Charney believes Bell owes IQT money and Charney would like to know how much notice was given from Bell to IQT that the contract was ending because, he said, that money belongs to the IQT laid-off employees.

More than 100 IQT Solution employees have already registered with the class action lawsuit. Former employees can get more information and register at [falconercharney.com/iqtsolutions](http://falconercharney.com/iqtsolutions).