

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Today – International Women’s Day – marks the first day of a Federal Court of Canada hearing in a proposed class action against the Government of Canada on behalf of women who faced sexualized harassment, discrimination, assault and violence in the Correctional Services Canada (“CSC”) workplace.

The claim alleges that the Government of Canada was negligent in failing to ensure that female CSC employees could work in an environment free of gender-based harassment, discrimination and assault, and in creating an environment which encouraged or fostered silence in the face of that conduct. The claim also alleges that the conduct breached CSC employees’ rights to security of the person and rights to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex. The claim alleges that the harassment, discrimination, and assault was systemic, occurred over several decades, and that it took place in CSC workplaces throughout Canada.

The hearing will take place March 8-11, 2022 at the Federal Court of Canada in Vancouver, BC.

A copy of the Claim can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaoag9c5>

- “No amount of money can compensate these women for the harms that they’ve endured, but this action gives a voice to their experiences. The harms that these women have experienced cannot be tolerated in any workplace in Canada, and certainly not in a Government of Canada workplace. The culture at Corrections is the antithesis of gender equality.” – Angela Bespflug, Class Counsel, Murphy Battista LLP
- “International Women’s Day marks a call to action for accelerating women’s equality. This proposed class action is our call to action – on behalf of women working in Corrections institutions across the country who have been subjected to sexualized harassment, discrimination, assault, and violence in a Government of Canada workplace. Our message is clear: such conduct cannot and will not be tolerated.” – Angela Bespflug, Class Counsel, Murphy Battista LLP

For more details on this action or to arrange an interview, please contact Janelle O’Connor at occonnor@murphybattista.com