



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 3, 2023

Lethbridge, Alberta - 47-year-old Vaccine Injured Mother files \$10.5 Million Lawsuit against the Government and the CBC for Misinformation and Negligence about COVID-19 Vaccines

Empowered Canadians and **The Institute for Freedom and Justice** are supporting and raising funds for a [new lawsuit](#) filed by Plaintiff, **Carrie Sakamoto**, a mother of three, who suffered significant physical and psychological harms, including permanent Bell's Palsy, because she thought she was doing "the right thing" by following the advice and information from the government and the CBC about the COVID-19 vaccines. *(See attached Backgrounder for more information about Ms. Sakamoto).*

The lawsuit, filed in the Court of King's Bench in Lethbridge, Alberta, against the federal Minister of Health, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Dr. Celia Lourenco, Alberta Health Services, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (the "Defendants") claims that the Defendants were negligent, provided information they knew to be false and incomplete, and that they censored and suppressed truthful and reliable information about vaccine injuries which caused harm to Ms. Sakamoto. The lawsuit goes on to allege misfeasance in public office by health officials in various governmental agencies.

Eva Chipiuk of **Chipiuk Law**, who is representing Ms. Sakamoto, says:

"I think Canadians will be shocked to learn about the rushed changes government made to the safety standard for vaccines at the start of COVID." Ms. Chipiuk added: "At the same time the Defendants were aggressively assuring the public that the COVID-19 vaccines were "safe and effective," those same agencies had worked to change the approval standard by removing the requirement for the COVID-19 vaccines to be either "safe" or "effective". The Government has already conceded, to the Public Accounts Committee, that the contracts with the manufacturers were rushed, did not contain the normal standards, and provided additional indemnities in favour of the manufacturers."

Ms. Chipiuk goes on to say:

“The Defendants held themselves out as public health experts, or as reporting on behalf of health experts, or as public health broadcasters. They intentionally set out to build a relationship of trust between themselves and the public during COVID at a time when they knew the public was vulnerable and afraid. They knew or ought to have known that the public would be relying on their information for their health, safety and protection. Ms. Sakamoto relied, to her detriment, on the representations made by the government and the CBC and this resulted in serious permanent harm to Ms. Sakamoto.”

Ms. Sakamoto was not alone. Millions of Canadians relied on the representations of the Defendants at a time when they were particularly vulnerable. We now know that many Canadians suffered physical and psychological injuries due to the misinformation and negligence of the Defendants. This lawsuit seeks justice for one Canadian who has suffered significant harms and, if successful, it might provide guidance for others to follow.

The lawsuit seeks compensation for Ms. Sakamoto. It will also show the importance of holding government and media organizations to account on public health issues and will hopefully lead to more responsible governance as well as more accurate news coverage in the future.

To make a donation to support the legal and expert costs please donate to Empowered Canadians and The Institute for Freedom and Justice.

Empowered Canadians is on a mission to empower, mobilize, and hold the government to account. Our organization believes in the power of citizens standing up against the government to challenge wrongdoing, advocate for transparency, and demand accountability. We value and welcome the voices of all Canadians. We believe that unity is essential, and by standing together, we can achieve meaningful impact. For more information and to donate, visit www.empoweredcanadians.ca/

The Institute for Freedom and Justice (IFJ) is a charitable organization established to create and build an understanding of the foundation, spirit, philosophy, and legal force of our Canadian Constitution, including the Charter of Rights & Freedoms and the foundational principles that contribute to good governance and the promotion of our rights and freedoms as Canadians. One of our mandates is to help fund litigation that defends and upholds these guiding principles. For more information and to donate, visit www.freedomandjustice.ca

BACKGROUNDER



Carrie Sakamoto, a previously healthy young woman, experienced severe adverse effects following her second COVID vaccine. Shortly after receiving the vaccine, Ms. Sakamoto began to feel unwell, and her condition progressively deteriorated. Ultimately, she sought medical attention at Lethbridge Hospital and she was diagnosed with Bell's Palsy as her condition worsened. Ms. Sakamoto had previously presented at the hospital but was turned away due to the absence of a discernible cause for admission.

Upon her admission to Lethbridge Hospital, Ms. Sakamoto's face, mouth, and tongue were paralyzed. She had trouble swallowing, eating, and blinking. Her brain exhibited signs of swelling, and she frequently experienced bouts of vomiting. She described the sensation as if her "brain was on fire." Ms. Sakamoto remained hospitalized for 17 days, during which time she relied on a feeding tube. Prior to her discharge, she underwent extensive rehabilitation to regain her ability to walk, chew, and swallow.

Following a thorough medical evaluation, Ms. Sakamoto was diagnosed with severe and permanent Bell's Palsy attributed to the Pfizer vaccine. As a result, she has endured enduring facial paralysis, hearing loss, vision impairment, dizziness, anxiety, depression, memory loss, cognitive impairment, synkinesis, sleep disruption, speech impairment, tinnitus, and vertigo. These chronic health issues have significantly impacted her life. Ms. Sakamoto's ability to drive has been compromised, further exacerbating her isolation and the challenges faced by her and her children. In order to accommodate her needs and attend medical appointments and rehabilitation treatments, Ms. Sakamoto and her family were compelled to sell their rural family farm and relocate to an urban area.

While Ms. Sakamoto was granted limited support through the federal Vaccine Injury Support Program, the amount received did not adequately cover the full extent of her injuries, psychological impact, or financial losses resulting from her vaccine-related injuries.

In an attempt to share her vaccine injury story with the public and medical professionals to enhance awareness and improve the management of vaccine-related injuries, Ms. Sakamoto reached out to various mainstream media outlets. However, none agreed to share her story. In response, she turned to TikTok to share her story. Many individuals have reached out, thanking her for sharing her story, and Ms. Sakamoto has endeavoured to help others by listening to others and sharing her personal experiences.