

# Fired call centre workers launch \$30M lawsuit

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August 17, 2011

A \$30-million class action lawsuit has been filed against IQT Solutions after 600 of its call centre employees in Oshawa were laid off last month without pay, notice, or severance.

Bob Brigaitis and his wife Cindy Rupert, both former operations managers for the call centre, are spearheading the lawsuit on behalf of the workers with assistance from Toronto law firm Falconer Charney.

Employees are seeking \$10 million in damages as well as \$20 million in unpaid wages. Prior to closing down, IQT Solutions provided customer care for Bell Canada.

“All of the employees of IQT were shocked to be treated like this after many years of loyal service to the company,” said Brigaitis in a statement Wednesday morning. “We are seeking compensation for the pay we are owed, but also to make sure companies like this don’t walk away from their responsibilities to their employees.”

On July 15, some 1,200 IQT workers in Ontario and Quebec were told to pack up their things because the company had allegedly gone bankrupt. Hundreds of workers rallied in the following weeks, demanding payment of wages while the Ministry of Labour investigated the claims.

Under federal law, workers can claim up to \$3,400 in unpaid wages, severance and vacation pay under the wage earner protection program (WEPP). However, the company must file bankruptcy, which IQT Solutions has not done.

“(The workers) have an extremely strong case. The difficulty will be collecting because we expect the company that was the employer has no assets that would be available to the employees with the possible exception of a significant amount of money which might be owing to the company from Bell Canada,” said lawyer Ted Charney.

“The best of our efforts will be encouraging the shareholders to do the right thing and that’s to take responsibility.”

The notice of action was sent to the directors and shareholders of the company including co-founders David and Alex Mortman.

When reached by the *Star*, Alex Mortman said he had not received notice of the lawsuit and declined to comment on the matter.



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