



News Release

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Class action settlements reach \$1.2 million

Community foundations distributing proceeds to 41 charities across Canada

(London, ON.) October 1, 2008 – Community foundations are distributing more than \$800,000 to charities across Canada as part of a recent class action lawsuit settlement, bringing the total contribution to charities from these settlements to \$1.2 million.

A total of 41 grants have been made in 22 communities across Canada. The latest grants are part of two longstanding class action lawsuits involving price fixing allegations among manufacturers of a rubber product known as EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) and Polychloroprene. EPDM is used in automotive weather-stripping, garden and appliance hose and electrical insulation, to name a few.

“Providing grants to community organizations allows the courts to broadly compensate consumers affected by this type of class action lawsuit, since there is no way to track them down individually,” said Martha Powell, President and CEO of London Community Foundation.

The London Community Foundation helped coordinate the distribution of the settlement to communities across the country, working in concert with the local legal team managing the lawsuits. Grants were given to help meet transportation needs including:

- London Community Foundation is funding eight community resource centres to provide transportation for individuals in financial need so they can go grocery shopping, attend doctors appointments, job interviews etc. The grants will provide for these needs and also allow the centres to fund the cost of renting buses for various excursions for disadvantaged youth.
- The Edmonton Community Foundation is funding a program that provides free transit tickets to low income families, two agencies that provide rides to seniors who are isolated and/or no longer able to drive, and a program that promotes alternatives to gas-powered transportation

“Community foundations connect donors to community need, so helping the courts distribute this funding to great local causes across the country was a good fit for our members, said Monica Patten, President and Chief Executive Officer, Community Foundations of Canada, the national association for Canada’s 164 community foundations. “We’re pleased to see dollars making their way back into communities and are happy to assist the courts in whatever way we can.”

The EPDM case is the second class action settlement in which community foundations have been involved. The first took place in 2002 when Siskinds, an Ontario-based legal firm, recommended community foundations to disperse more than \$300,000 to charities. The legal action involved manufacturers of monosodium glutamate (MSG) and nucleotides, two popular flavour enhancers.

London Community Foundation

London Community Foundation is a public foundation serving London and Middlesex County and is the tenth-largest community foundation in Canada. The Foundation, which was established by charter

in 1954, was the vision of the late J. Allyn Taylor, who was Chairman of Canada Trust and the Foundation's Honorary Chair. London Community Foundation is governed by a volunteer board of directors and is operated by a staff of six.

Community Foundations of Canada

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) is the national membership organization for the 164 community foundations found in cities, towns and rural areas across the country. With more than \$2.9-billion in assets, the community foundation movement is one of Canada's largest grantmakers, providing more than \$176-million in grants last year to thousands of charities.

NOTE: A list of communities receiving grants from the EPDM lawsuit is attached.

Background on the case is available at www.classaction.ca/content/actions/ethylene.asp. The settlement can be found at http://www.classaction.ca/pdf/Distribution_Protocol_EPDM.pdf.

Contacts:

Anne-Marie McElrone
Director of Communications and Marketing
Community Foundations of Canada
t.902.461.8284
amcelrone@cfc-fcc.ca

Andrew Chunilall, CA
Director of Finance
London Community Foundation
P (519) 667-1600 ext 102
F (519) 667-1615
achunilall@lcf.on.ca