

- NEWS RELEASE -

Rath & Company Launches Class Action Lawsuit Against Alberta Government for COVID-19 Business Restrictions

Calgary February 8, 2024 - Rath & Company has launched a [class action lawsuit](#) against the Province of Alberta on behalf of business owners in Alberta who faced operational restrictions due to, now deemed illegal, Public Health Orders. This lawsuit follows the recent [Ingram Decision](#) by the Calgary Court of King's Bench, which declared that all of Dr. Hinshaw's Public Health Orders were *ultra vires*, in other words illegal or not lawfully enacted. The Ingram Decision has opened the door for affected business owners to seek damages for the financial losses incurred due to the restrictions imposed by these unlawful Public Health Orders.

The lawsuit names Rebecca Ingram and Chris Scott as representative plaintiffs who suffered significant financial harm due to Dr. Hinshaw's Public Health Orders. On February 7, 2024, the parties attended their first case conference with Justice Feasby of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta to establish the next steps. The lawyers for the Province of Alberta made it clear that they intend to oppose the class action certification. Premier Smith has yet to comment on the government opposition to compensate individual business owners impacted by Dr. Hinshaw's unlawful Public Health Orders.

"This marks the first of many procedural and substantive steps. This is an important case about government actions and overreach during a time when business owners were unlawfully mandated to close their businesses at moments notice. It will give Albertans the opportunity to hold the Alberta government accountable and seek fair compensation on behalf of the many businesses impacted by Deena Hinshaw's many unlawful decisions," said lead counsel Jeffrey Rath.

The class action represents all impacted Alberta business owners. If you have been adversely affected and wish to join this class action lawsuit, please register by completing the online form at [Business Class Action – Rath&Company \(rathandcompany.com\)](#). Should the Court grant permission for this action to proceed as a "Class Action" (also known as "Certification"), you may qualify as a class member whether or not you have registered.

"In what world is it fair for small business owners to bear the financial brunt for the benefit of the entire province? Our hope is that this lawsuit brings justice to the affected business owners who suffered significant hardship and losses without justification or consideration by the province's harsh and unilateral actions," Mr. Rath continued.