

Noteworthy legal cases in Calgary and area from Dec. 2 to 6, 2024

Class action suit approved over sexual abuse at Canadian Forces bases

McRae, who died in 2011, faced a Catholic diocese ecclesiastical court in June 1980, where he admitted sexually abusing “several minors” over the preceding “couple of years,” and was court martialled a month later, Neufeld said.

The judge said that while Bees believed there were up to 25 victims of McRae, he only needed to determine there were at least two in order to certify a class action.

“It is reasonable to believe that the number of victims will never be known, but it is at least two or more,” Neufeld said.

“How many of those victims will be willing or able to come forward at this time remains to be seen.”

Bees, who for years has sought justice over the conduct of McRae, was an appropriate representative plaintiff, the judge said.

“Mr. Bees has, for many years, pursued access to justice in respect of his claims of sexual abuse as a child. He appears to have suffered many years of torment and depression which he attributes to his childhood experience,” Neufeld said.

attests that Father McRae arranged for PS to babysit Mr. Bees ... during which sexual abuse took place,” Neufeld note.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

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“Mr. Bees has agreed to take on the responsibility of a representative plaintiff in this action and confirmed in questioning his willingness to carry this action through to its conclusion, This is despite his intention to seek medical assistance in death, as the ultimate respite from his lifelong depression after it becomes available for those whose underlying medical condition is a mental illness.

“One can only hope that access to justice, however this action is resolved, will lead or assist Mr. Bees to find a different path.”

In May 2022, Bees filed a written submission to a joint Parliamentary committee on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) seeking access for the procedure for those suffering from mental illness.

“Allow me the dignity to die in a peaceful and painless manner,” Bees wrote.

Neufeld directed counsel to provide a revised litigation plan and a proposed certification order based on his reasons “to move this action along.”