

Two more firms jointly launch class action against Maple Leaf

JOANNA SMITH

Two more law firms have come together to launch a \$100-million national class-action lawsuit against Maple Leaf Foods on behalf of consumers who bought ready-to-eat meats on the recall list.

Ottawa resident Cezanne Bilodeau is the named representative plaintiff on the new lawsuit filed today in Toronto.

"Cezanne and her son purchased and consumed four different cold meat products on the recall list and they have been experiencing symptoms of cramps and nausea for approximately the last four or five days," said lawyer Ted Charney of Toronto-based firm Falconer Charney LLP, which is launching the suit jointly with Sutts Strosberg LLP. "And they have gone to the doctor and had blood tests done."

Bilodeau could not immediately be reached for comment and the statement of claim was not immediately available.

None of these allegations have been proven in court.

Charney said his firm's website has received more than 10,000 hits after posting information about the lawsuit.

"People from across the country have completed applications indicating that they are experiencing similar symptoms from consuming products on the recall list," he said. "Others are very concerned because they and their families have consumed the products, and they don't know if they are going to develop the symptoms."

"There are going to be many stories to tell from this," Charney said. "It's what we call just the tip of the iceberg."

Charney said he hopes to join this lawsuit together with the four separate lawsuits filed Monday and Tuesday by Regina-based Merchant Law Group, but it is too early to tell whether that would happen.

Darren Williams, a lawyer based in the Vancouver office of Merchant Law, said today that the firm had not yet decided whether to join them all together.