## NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT APPROVAL HEARING IN THE AUTOMOTIVE WIRE HARNESS SYSTEMS CLASS ACTION

# If you bought or leased a new or used vehicle, or an Automotive Wire Harness System, between January 1, 1999 and December 4, 2014, you should read this notice carefully. It may affect your legal rights.

## A. What is a class action?

A class action is a lawsuit filed by one person on behalf of a large group of people.

# B. WHAT IS THIS CLASS ACTION ABOUT?

This notice is about the **Automotive Wire Harness Systems ("AWHS")** price-fixing class action. An AWHS is the electrical distribution system in a vehicle. See <u>www.classaction.ca/autoparts/Wire-Harness-Systems</u> for a full definition of AWHS. All vehicles contain an AWHS.

The AWHS class action was started in BC, Ontario and Quebec, but the cases include Canadian residents in all provinces and territories who were affected by the alleged conspiracy. The class action claims that the companies that sell AWHS were involved in a conspiracy to illegally increase the prices of AWHS. This class action asks that the court require these companies to return any extra money that they may have received due to this alleged conspiracy.

The AWHS class action is one of approximately 35 class actions started in Canada which claim that many companies participated in conspiracies to fix the prices of automotive parts sold in Canada.

## C. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE CLASS ACTIONS?

This class action is about AWHS installed in all vehicles. This class action is also about all purchased (new or used) or leased vehicles containing AWHS.

You are affected by the AWHS class action and a "member" of the settlement class if you are a person in Canada who between January 1, 1999 and December 4, 2014:

- purchased or leased a new or used vehicle in Canada;
- purchased a new or used vehicle for import into Canada; or
- purchased an AWHS (or a component of one) in Canada.

# D. WHAT SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED IN THE CLASS ACTION?

A settlement is when a defendant agrees to pay money to the members of the class action in exchange for being released from the case.

Furukawa Electric Co., Ltd. and American Furukawa, Inc. ("Furukawa") settled the action for CDN\$2,300,000 in exchange for a full release of the claims against them relating to the pricing of AWHS.

Fujikura Ltd., Fujikura America Inc. and Fujikura Automotive America LLC ("Fujikura") settled the action for CDN\$1,083,280, in exchange for a full release of the claims against them relating to the pricing of AWHS.

Furukawa and Fujikura also agreed to provide cooperation to the plaintiffs in pursuing the applicable class actions against the remaining defendants. Furukawa and Fujikura do not admit any liability, wrongdoing or fault.

The settlements are subject to court approval. The courts will hold hearings to decide whether to approve these settlements in the Ontario Court in the City of Toronto on September 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. and the British Columbia Court in the City of Vancouver on September 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., and the Quebec Court in the City of Quebec on September 21, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. The courts will decide whether the settlements are fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of settlement class members.

Previous settlements have been reached with three other groups of defendants. The settlements achieved to date total approximately CDN\$14.4 million. The settlement funds, plus interest, less court approved fees and expenses, are being held in trust for the benefit of settlement class members. A method for distributing the settlement funds will be submitted to the courts for approval at a later date. Once the courts have approved the method for distributing the settlement funds, another notice will be provided regarding how the settlement funds will be distributed and how to apply to receive settlement funds.

# E. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If you want to be a member of this class action, you do not need to do anything. However, there are two steps that you should take to protect your legal rights:

- 1. You should keep records of any purchases or leases of all vehicles or automotive parts for installation in all vehicles from January 1, 1998 onward. Records include invoices, receipts and bank or loan statements.
- 2. You should register online at <u>www.classaction.ca/autoparts</u> to receive updates about this class action and the other auto parts price-fixing class actions.

If you want to tell the court what you think about the proposed settlements or speak to the court at the hearings listed above, you must send your written submissions to Class Counsel by email at: <u>autopartsclassaction@siskinds.com</u> or fax at: 519-660-7813 no later than September 7, 2016.

You may (but do not need to) attend the hearings. If you wish to attend the hearings, please contact Class Counsel for additional details.

## F. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MONEY PAID UNDER THE SETTLEMENTS?

At this stage, the settlement funds (minus approved fees and expenses) will be held in an interestbearing trust account. At a later date, the court will decide how the settlement funds will be distributed and how you can apply to receive money from these settlements. Watch for another notice explaining how to claim money from the settlements.

#### G. WHO ARE THE LAWYERS WORKING ON THIS CLASS ACTION AND HOW ARE THEY PAID?

The law firms of Siskinds LLP and Sotos LLP represent members of this class action in Ontario, and in provinces other than British Columbia or Quebec, as well as corporations of more than 50 employees in Quebec.

Siskinds LLP can be reached at:

Telephone (toll free): 1-800-461-6166 ext. 1315 Email: <u>autopartsclassaction@siskinds.com</u> Mail: 680 Waterloo Street, London, ON N6A 3V8 Attention: Charles Wright

Sotos LLP can be reached at:

Telephone (toll free): 1-888-977-9806 Email: <u>autoparts@sotosllp.com</u> Mail: 180 Dundas Street West, Suite 1200, Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8 Attention: Jean-Marc Leclerc

The law firm of Camp Fiorante Matthews Mogerman represents members of this class action in British Columbia. British Columbia Class Counsel can be reached at:

Telephone: 1-800-689-2322 Email: <u>aslevin@cfmlawyers.ca</u> Mail: #400 - 856 Homer Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 2W5 Attention: Sharon Matthews, Q.C.

The law firm of Siskinds Desmeules s.e.n.c.r.l. represents individuals and corporations of 50 or less employees who are members of this class action in Quebec. Quebec Class Counsel can be reached at:

Telephone: 418-694-2009

Email: <u>recours@siskindsdesmeules.com</u>

Mail: Les promenades du Vieux-Quebec, 43 rue De Buade, bureau 320, Quebec City, QC G1R 4A2 Attention: Barbara Ann Cain.

As an individual, you do not have to pay the lawyers working on this class action any money. The lawyers will be paid from the money collected in this class action. The courts will be asked to decide how much the lawyers will be paid. The lawyers will collectively be asking that the courts approve legal fees of up to 25% of the Furukawa and Fujikura settlement funds, plus disbursements and applicable taxes. Any approved legal fees will be paid out of the settlement funds. Class Counsel reserve the right to ask the courts to allow Class Counsel to use the settlement funds to pay for any future adverse costs award or future disbursements. At a later date, Class Counsel will ask the courts to approve the distribution of the remaining settlement funds to settlement class members.

# H. WHERE CAN I ASK MORE QUESTIONS?

For more information, please visit <u>www.classaction.ca/autoparts</u>. If you have questions that are not answered online, please contact Class Counsel at the numbers listed above.

To receive future notices and updates regarding the auto parts class actions and any future settlements, register online at <u>www.classaction.ca/autoparts</u>.

## I. INTERPRETATION

This notice contains a summary of some of the terms of the Furukawa and Fujikura settlement agreements. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this notice and the settlement agreements, the terms of the settlement agreements shall prevail.

This notice has been approved by the Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec Courts.