

Would-be workers file suit against Ford

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A class-action suit has been filed against Ford of Canada.

The \$55-million claim seeks compensation for workers who were offered jobs by the automaker, only to have the offer cancelled days before they were to start.

A statement of claim was issued in the suit earlier this month by Hamilton lawyers Jeffrey Shinehoft, of Shinehoft Law, and David Thompson of Scarfone Hawkins. A statement of claim contains allegations which have not yet been proven in court.

Gabriel Levesque, of Hamilton, is the lead plaintiff in the suit. He was one of 350 people offered jobs at Ford's Oakville assembly complex as part of a plan to add a third production shift for new vehicles. After getting the job offer from Ford, he quit his customer service job in Hamilton, only to see Ford's offer withdrawn.

Ford was to hire 500 people for the third shift. In the end, it offered jobs to only 160 workers laid off from one of its plants in Windsor.

Ford spokesperson Lauren More refused to comment.

"It is inappropriate for us to discuss a case that is before the courts."