

# Green light given to seize Jones's personal assets

BY SUE MONTGOMERY, THE GAZETTE JULY 28, 2009

Now that Earl Jones's victims are going after what assets might remain in the arrested businessman's company, new documents were filed in Quebec Superior Court yesterday in a bid to declare Jones bankrupt.

Also, Superior Court granted accounting firm RSM Richter Inc. permission yesterday to seize Jones's personal assets, including homes in Dorval and Mont Tremblant.

"There is reason to fear ... that without the appointment of an interim receiver, (Jones) may well attempt to sell or transfer or hypothecate his personal assets including the interest he has in the immovable properties registered in his name," one document says.

Jones, who was arrested yesterday and is to appear in court today on several charges of fraud and theft, allegedly swindled dozens of Montrealers out of millions of dollars, either through their relatives' estates, bogus investments or managing their day-to-day expenses.

Lawyer Neil Stein, representing several of Jones's alleged victims, said he doesn't know whether Jones will show up for his company's bankruptcy hearing tomorrow in Quebec Superior Court. So far, Jones hasn't been represented at any of the civil hearings.

The hearing to have Jones declared bankrupt is scheduled for Aug. 19.

The petitioner named in the two documents filed yesterday is Cristina Ross, who, with two sisters, entrusted Jones with their father's estate.

In December 2008, the document says, Jones told the Ross sisters that he needed \$27,000 immediately in order to take advantage of a preferential six-per-cent return on an estate account he'd open in the name of their father's estate. The cheque, however, was deposited in an account linked to Earl Jones.

Jones also allegedly arranged a \$150,000 loan from Dr. Brent Matthews to the Estate of Graeme Ross, but court documents allege the signatures are forged and that the Ross sisters neither authorized the loan.

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