

## Dow Jones **News**wires

### **Earl Jones Victims Endure Snowy Protest Against RBC**

By Evelyn Juan

Of DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

617 words

14 December 2010

15:14

[Dow Jones News Service](#)

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English

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TORONTO (Dow Jones)--For the more than 50 victims of convicted investment fraudster **Earl Jones**, getting heard by Royal Bank of Canada (RY, RY.T) which allegedly facilitated perpetration of Jones's **Ponzi** scheme, meant enduring the snowy negative seven degrees Celsius weather for almost two hours on a Tuesday afternoon.

Roughly 55 victims--about 39 of whom came from Quebec--rallied around the Royal Bank of Canada headquarters in downtown Toronto Tuesday afternoon wearing red scarves, carrying placards and red balloons seeking for restitution amid a C\$40 million class action filed against the bank.

The suit, filed at the Superior Court in Montreal, alleges that Royal Bank of Canada allowed Jones to use his trust account at the bank for personal use, and attributed him VIP-client status, which allowed him to conduct allegedly irregular and inappropriate privileges that facilitated Jones in his **Ponzi** scheme.

"It's a big day for us, we've traveled 12 hours to get here," said Virginia Nelles, who represents the class. She is scheduled for deposition Friday in Montreal.

To culminate the protest, Nelles and her mother, Wendy Nelles, handed over the book "**Earl Jones** and the Royal Bank of Canada--The Truth Behind the so-called In-Trust Account #06361-5266622," which is a compilation of stories of defrauded investors, to RBC spokespersons Gillian McArdle and Geoff Owen on Tuesday afternoon.

McArdle and Owen didn't say a word to the protesters after receiving the book but in an interview, McArdle said "we'll make sure that we get them to the right hands." RBC claims the bank itself was deceived by Jones just as his clients were. "We are looking forward to bringing closure to this matter," McArdle added.

The suit against RBC is expected to involve around 180 claimants, including Bevan Jones, the brother of **Earl Jones**, who boarded the bus from Montreal to Toronto to join the rally.

Bevan Jones, who lived together with his brother Earl for 23 years, last spent time with his younger brother sometime in March on an Alaskan cruise. He remembered his brother always on the phone and making calls to Montreal during the cruise, and looking a bit nervous but somehow managed to enjoy himself with his two other siblings and their wives.

He fondly remembered his brother as a loving father to his two daughters, one of whom is mentally challenged, and has been told that her father is "out on a mission." For his grandchildren, the convicted fraudster was said to be "on vacation."

**Earl Jones** is now behind bars for 11 year after pleading guilty to two fraud charges.

"My brother was a thief and Royal Bank helped him out," said Bevan Jones, who carried a placard that said "Don't write us off" during the march.

The two brothers haven't spoken since the news of **Earl Jones's** fraudulent activities broke and last saw each other when Earl was sentenced to imprisonment. "He didn't say a word, he didn't say he was sorry," said the elder Jones. His message for his brother Earl: "Rot in hell."

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