

# Woman sues ex for half of \$6M lottery win

By [AdvocateDaily.com Staff](#)



 THE CANADIAN PRESS



An Ontario woman is suing her former common-law partner for allegedly denying that the couple had won \$6 million in a provincial lottery before claiming the full prize for himself.

The woman's lawsuit against her ex and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation alleges the winning ticket was purchased with the understanding that any winnings would be split between the two parties.

In an interview with [AdvocateDaily.com](#), Toronto civil litigator [Sarah O'Connor](#) says the law is generally pretty clear around lotto disputes.

The party seeking to be included in the win would have to prove there was a pattern where they regularly bought lottery tickets together with the other party, she says.

Though she's not involved with this particular dispute and speaks generally on the matter, O'Connor, principal of [O'Connor Richardson Professional Corporation](#), says disputes around lottery tickets are somewhat common — many involve office pools of co-workers who regularly contribute to weekly tickets. She currently represents individuals in three unrelated cases involving lotto tickets.

In this matter, the woman's statement of claim alleges her ex-partner kept up a long-standing tradition and purchased a ticket for the Sept. 20, 2017 draw, but later denied that it was a winner.

Days later, she alleges he packed up his belongings, left their home and tried to redeem the winning ticket. The OLG has since paid the man half the prize while the rest remains in legal limbo.

The woman's suit accuses her ex-partner of breach of trust and unjust enrichment and seeks the roughly \$3 million that would represent half the winnings from the lottery ticket, plus an additional half a million dollars in aggravated damages. She is asking that a jury hear her civil suit.

Representatives of OLG declined to offer specific comment on the suit, but the man's lawyer said his client denies there was ever an agreement in place with his former partner.

The lawyer said his client has readily complied with an OLG investigation into the matter and criticized the woman for not taking part in an agency arbitration process to resolve the dispute.

"There's a statement of claim, and there is the truth," the lawyer said in a telephone interview. "And the truth is that my client has participated with the OLG investigation in every respect, including offering to take a polygraph examination."

He added that his client had gone through with the polygraph and passed "with flying colours."

The woman's lawyer said his client decided to pursue a lawsuit in lieu of the arbitration process, arguing a court procedure would give both parties a better opportunity for a full investigation and fair hearing.

"The jury is critical in this," the woman's lawyer said. "I think this is a case where the public and the community needs to weigh in and say what they think is appropriate and what's acceptable in society."

Her statement of claim alleges that she and her ex regularly bought lottery tickets together throughout their nearly two-year-long common-law relationship, with both members of the couple purchasing or paying for the tickets at different times.

The statement said both parties loved muscle cars and dreamed of purchasing a vehicle each, a piece of large country property near their home in Chatham, Ont., and a shop in which they could indulge their shared hobby. The statement of claim said both parties had an understanding that they would split any winnings that came from their lotto purchases.