

newTop court won't hear Nortel disability appeal

[CBC News](#)

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The Supreme Court of Canada has decided not to hear a case involving former Nortel workers who lost much of their long-term disability benefits when the company sought bankruptcy protection.

As usual, the top court did not release reasons for its decision to deny leave to appeal, issued Thursday.

An Ontario Superior Court of Justice decision set aside money for about 360 employees who were on long-term disability at the company when it filed for bankruptcy protection. But a group of 36 dissenting workers weren't content that the funding left them and their colleagues with only a third of their disability income benefits.

The Ontario Court of Appeal in January upheld the lower court's decision, prompting the workers to try to have the Supreme Court hear the case.

"There's not only the group of people that we represent that are disappointed, but this is a case that affects a lot of people across the country who are disabled and people who thought they had a real insurance policy, but it turns out that it doesn't survive bankruptcy," said Joel Rochon, the Toronto lawyer representing the workers.

The group of former Nortel employees receives disability benefits for conditions including cancer, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

They still hope the federal government will introduce legislation to protect other disabled workers during a bankruptcy.

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roogleso

2011/06/09
at 3:20 PM ET

The former CEO & CFO of Nortel, who are living in luxury thanks to their Nortel careers, should look in the mirror and know that they were responsible for many people in Canada losing loads of money in the stock market, for putting talented people out of work, and for leaving disabled employees with no recourse and no money. I wish they'd post a comment here on how that feels?

Rating
5

5 0

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dave777

2011/06/09
at 3:02 PM ET

Just hope like crazy you don't become disabled in Canada. Our system is not as benevolent as it seems. Comes with a free guaranteed ticket to eventual poverty.

Rating
7

7 0

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dave777

2011/06/09
at 2:42 PM ET

You know, you pay that LTD premium for a career, and then they screw you over. These people screwing the disabled are EVIL. It is even beyond greed.

While executives get their bonuses, and they are much larger than the disability fund was, and others rake in 100's of millions, they screw the disabled that paid into it.