

# Lawsuit against Albertans fizzles out

By Gordon Lee

(Herald staff writer)

The Church of Scientology's four-year-old defamation lawsuit against seven Albertans has fizzled out on the eve of trial.

The Scientology organization was required to deposit \$45,000 by Monday at the Court of Queen's Bench in Edmonton. But Calgary lawyer Ken Staroszik, who represents the seven defendants, said the court clerk's office confirmed Tuesday that the money has not been received.

At a Queen's Bench hearing June 18 in Edmonton, Justice Arthur Crossley ordered the organization to post the money as security for costs in the event it lost the case. Crossley said the lawsuit would be dismissed if the organization did not deposit the money in the clerk's office within two months.

Staroszik said that while the organization's failure to come up with the money will kill the case, his clients may return to court one last time to ask for recovery of all their legal expenses from the Scientology group. He estimated his clients' total legal costs at about \$50,000.

"They've dragged us through four years of litigation and four times through the court of appeal (but) they don't want to go to trial," complained Staroszik.

A two-week trial of the case had been scheduled to start Oct. 6 in Edmonton.

Staroszik said his clients were pleased the case is now dead, although they were "disappointed in some ways" because they wanted the organization's allegations against themselves "dealt with in a public forum."

The Scientology "missions" of Calgary, Edmonton and Old Strathcona filed a statement of claim in September, 1976, asking damages of about \$115,000 for an alleged conspiracy to defame and interfere with the organization.

The Scientologists claimed the defendants defamed the group by writing letters as early as 1975 to public officials and several organizations.

## Ex-Scientologist

# Scars have yet to heal

By BILL HART  
Staff Writer

Brendon Moore was yesterday piecing his life back together — after being cleared by a court of defaming the Church of Scientology.

The case, which has lasted four years, was thrown out of Court of Queen's Bench in Edmonton Monday when the church failed to post a \$45,000 bond to cover future court costs.

But Moore says the scars from his association with Scientology have yet to heal.

The Scientologists sued eight ex-members in September, 1976 for allegedly defaming the church by writing letters to several organizations and elected officials.

Legal action against one Edmonton woman was later dropped when she agreed to testify for the church.

The other seven — Moore, Lorna Levett, Len Jackman, William Reid, Neil Taylor and David Wallace, all of Calgary and Betty McCoy of Edmonton — fought appeals, delays and refusals to comply with court orders.

Moore, an electrician, said the battle had cost him his marriage, several jobs, \$5,000 given to the

church and four years of court costs.

He has changed his telephone number and won't give out his address for fear of harassment.

His brother and sister are still involved and Moore says he can't visit them.

Moore joined the church in Calgary in 1968 when his brother, already a member, told him about Scientology.

He says he was given a personality profile and told he needed counselling to reach the spiritual goal of the Scientologists — a training course (level) called OT III.

"It's like a carrot on a stick," Moore said. "I was really hooked on the fact I needed this stuff."

Moore left Scientology in March, 1974, after a disagreement over which courses to take. He still then believed the church was right — only some of its followers were corrupt.

Moore said he'll continue to try to show what he believes the church is really like.

Ken Staroszik, lawyer for the seven, said yesterday they'll be back in court in October, to recover legal costs from the church. They could file for as much as \$50,000, he said.