



CB in Brief



The Competition Bureau's Month in Review

November 2009

Recent Announcements

- **November 23, 2009**
[Resort Company Penalized for Running Misleading Contests](#)
- **November 17, 2009**
[Jeanne Pratt Appointed Special Legal Advisor to Commissioner of Competition](#)
- **November 5, 2009**
[Competition Bureau Requires National Phone Card Supplier to Pay Refunds and Penalty](#)
- **November 4, 2009**
[Consumers Warned Against Buying Fraudulent H1N1 Flu Virus Products Online](#)
- **November 4, 2009**
[Competition Bureau Secures Remedy for Agrium's Proposed Acquisition of CF Industries](#)

Other News

Quebec Gas Cartel Update

Court proceedings for the Quebec gas cartel case are ongoing. The next court appearances are: December 3, 2009, in Victoriaville, and December 15, 2009, in Sherbrooke.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has filed a motion with the Quebec Court of Appeal to appeal the sentence of Daniel Drouin, which was handed down on August 31, 2009. The motion to appeal was deferred to a panel of three judges and will be heard on March 19, 2010. Drouin received an absolute discharge and made a \$10,000 charitable donation.

The most up-to-date information on the developments in this case can be found at: <http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/03079.html>.

- > CB in Brief is an electronic publication, distributed regularly to media and stakeholders to provide a snapshot of recent news and developments.
- > For enquiries or information, please contact [Phil Norris - Communications](#).
- > The Competition Bureau is an independent law enforcement agency that contributes to the prosperity of Canadians by protecting and promoting competitive markets and enabling informed consumer choice.



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> For more information, please contact [Alexa Thorp](#).

Competition Bureau Investigation Leads to Guilty Pleas for Deceptive Telemarketing Practices

Three people have pleaded guilty to deceptive telemarketing charges related to the promotion of business directories and listing in such directories. Between October 28, 2003, and February 23, 2005, the telemarketers, who were promoting a directory on CD with information on various organizations and businesses, contacted small and medium businesses. The telemarketers acted in such a way that their victims thought that they were already clients of the telemarketing company or that the product would be provided to them at no charge. However, the victims received an invoice if they kept the CD or, if they returned it, had to pay separate fees. Byron Steczko, Ahn-Phong Vo and Cory Kornelson were charged on February 27, 2008 under the telemarketing provisions of the Competition Act. In addition to a six-month conditional sentence, accompanied by severe curfew conditions, these individuals will also be prohibited from engaging in telemarketing for 10 years. A Canada-wide arrest warrant was issued for a fourth accused, Hiep Manh (Ty) Nguyen, who failed to appear in Court.

> For more information, please contact [Gabrielle Tassé](#).

Competition Bureau Participates in International Internet Sweep

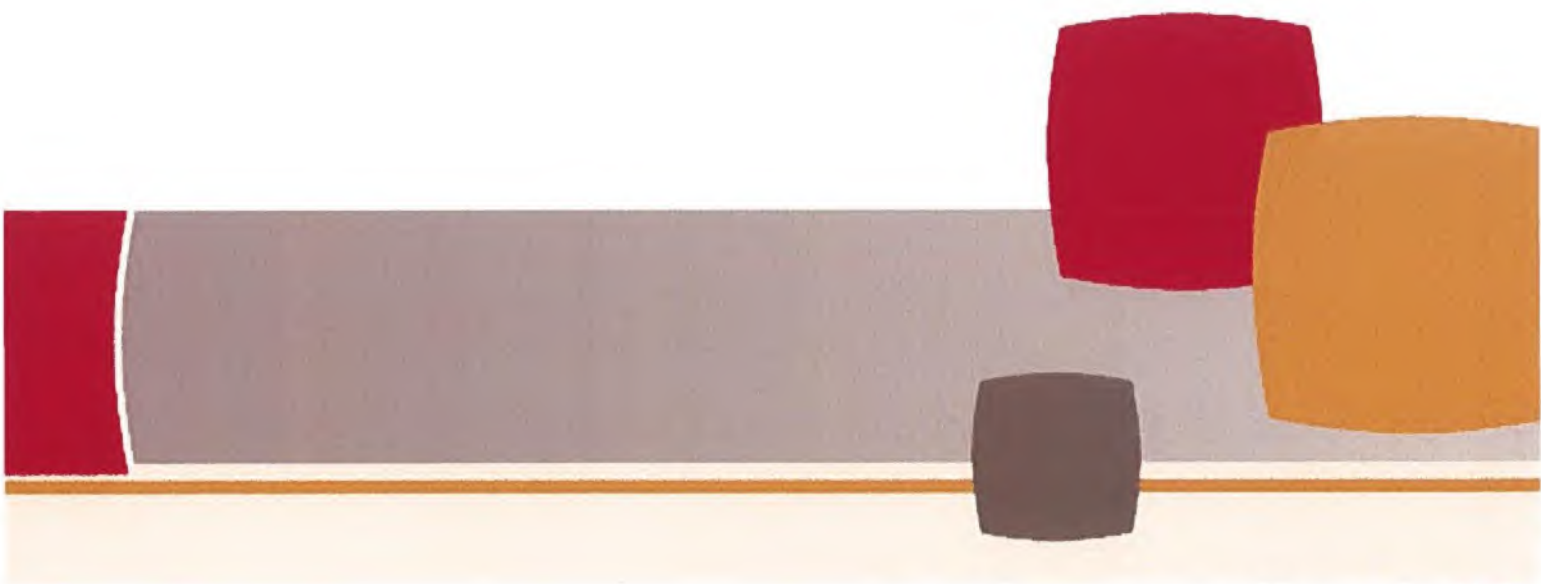
The Competition Bureau and members of the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN) participated in a joint Internet sweep to expose fraudulent and misleading Web sites. Last year's sweep resulted in over 37,000 Web sites earmarked for further investigation by the 21 participating countries. The action undertaken by the Bureau focused this year on loans and grants scams. The Bureau urges consumers who suspect they have been the victim of deceptive Web sites or emails to contact PhoneBusters, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Call Centre, at 1-888-495-8501.

> For more information, please contact [Gabrielle Tassé](#).

Prison Sentence in Mass Marketing Fraud Case Highlights the Work of the Atlantic Partnership Against Cross-border Fraud

Owing to the work of members of the Atlantic Partnership Against Cross-border Fraud, two individuals involved in cross-border mass marketing fraud have been sentenced to serve time in prison. Earl Lawrey Matthews, a U.S. citizen, and Reyane Briand, formerly of Newfoundland, received three-year prison sentences for fraud-related offences, and a sentence of six-months for possession of stolen property, to be served concurrently. Their company, Aid4Families, advertised on the Internet and guaranteed exorbitant monthly returns to investors. The investigation revealed that the pair's endeavours netted them upwards of \$500,000 from U.S. residents.

> For more information, please contact [Gabrielle Tassé](#).



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