

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT VENTURE
BETWEEN**

**ALBERTA GOVERNMENT SERVICES,
CANADA'S COMPETITION BUREAU,
UNITED STATES FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION'S
BUREAU OF CONSUMER PROTECTION,
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE,
CALGARY POLICE SERVICE
EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE**

AND UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF DECEPTIVE MARKETING PRACTICES LAWS

Whereas, in recognition of the great consumer and business harm that flows from fraudulent, deceptive, and misleading marketing practices, the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada entered into an agreement ("the Agreement") on August 3, 1995 which, among other things, called for establishing a "framework for cooperation and coordination with respect to enforcement of deceptive marketing practices laws";

Whereas, pursuant to the Agreement, the United States and Canada on September 10, 1996 established a U.S.-Canadian Task Force on Cross-Border Deceptive Marketing Practices to promote cooperation between law enforcement authorities in the U.S. and Canada respecting deceptive marketing practices with a cross-border component, and directed it to explore methods to improve cross-border information sharing and to seek to involve federal, state, provincial, and local law enforcement authorities in cooperative efforts it developed;

Whereas, in April 1997, President Clinton and Prime Minister Chrétien established a United States-Canada Working Group on Telemarketing Fraud ("Working Group") and directed it to prepare a report of ways to counter the serious and growing problem of deceptive cross-border telemarketing;

Whereas, the Working Group's Report recognized that cooperation and sharing accurate information allows law enforcement agencies to avoid effort duplication and more quickly identify and prosecute ongoing fraud, deception, and misleading marketing practices, and recommended expanding access to such information;

Whereas, cooperation and information sharing pursuant to these efforts has resulted in a substantial number of law enforcement actions with a cross-border component, to the benefit of consumers and businesses in the United States and Canada;

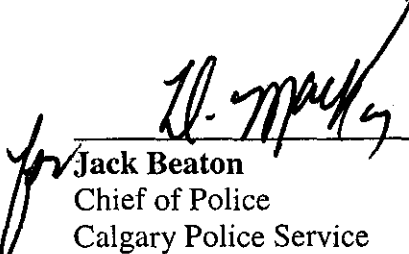
Now therefore, to continue and improve these successful information sharing and cooperative law enforcement efforts, and to the extent consistent with their laws,

enforcement policies, and information sharing restrictions,¹ the Alberta Government Services, Canada's Competition Bureau, the United States Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Calgary Police Service, Edmonton Police Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service intend to establish a joint venture and understand as follows:

1. The primary purpose of this joint venture will be to coordinate law enforcement activities among the Parties, to identify fraudulent, deceptive and misleading marketing practices with an Alberta nexus, to facilitate information sharing among the Parties and to support each other's law enforcement actions against persons and entities that engage in various types of deceptive marketing practices, as consistent with their laws, priorities and resources.
2. Alberta Government Services, Canada's Competition Bureau, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Edmonton Police Service and Calgary Police Service, will each use best efforts to contribute and share resources, on a case to case basis, to collect and share information and help coordinate law enforcement actions among the Parties.
3. The Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection will use best efforts to provide appropriate data analysis in support of the joint venture, and investigative and financial support to help locate, interview and, in appropriate cases, bring American witnesses to law enforcement proceedings with an Alberta nexus brought by the other Parties.
4. The United States Postal Inspection Service will, as appropriate, use best efforts to invoke its civil and/or criminal law enforcement authority respecting the mail, including: exploring the applicability of its authority to seize and return mail; assist with verifying addresses and eliciting information about use of commercial mail receiving agencies; provide investigative help in the United States, and where appropriate, in Canada to further the goals of the joint venture; and otherwise support the joint venture in appropriate ways.
5. The Parties will, as appropriate, use best efforts to develop and engage in joint investigations of deceptive marketing practices involving companies in Alberta targeting U.S. citizens as well as companies in the United States targeting Alberta citizens.
6. The Parties will meet on a regular basis, no less than every three months, in person or by teleconference, to develop, evaluate, and coordinate their law enforcement strategies and techniques. Each Party will devote adequate resources, as appropriate, to the development of this joint venture.

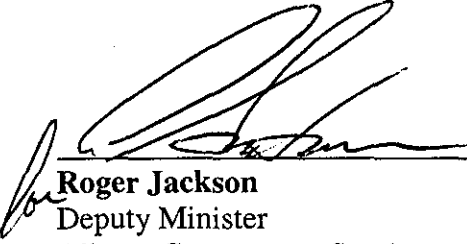
¹ With respect to the Federal Trade Commission and Canada's Competition Bureau, see *1995 Agreement Between The Government of The United States of America and The Government of Canada Regarding The Application of Their Competition and Deceptive Marketing Practices Laws*, Article X.

7. The Parties will also cooperate and coordinate with any appropriate law enforcement agencies, and the prosecutorial services of Alberta Justice, the Competition Law Division of the Department of Justice Canada, and the United States Department of Justice.
8. Nothing in this Understanding will require a Party to take any action, or to refrain from acting, in a manner inconsistent with existing law, or will require any change in the law of Canada or the United States.
9. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, each Party will, to the fullest extent possible, seek to maintain the confidentiality of any information communicated to it in confidence by any other Party.



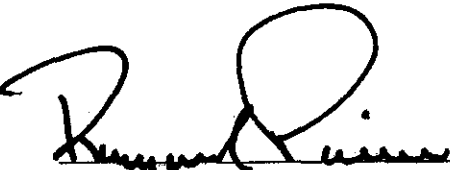
Jack Beaton
Chief of Police
Calgary Police Service

Dated: Aug 05/03




Roger Jackson
Deputy Minister
Alberta Government Services

Dated: Aug 21/03



Raymond Pierce
Deputy Commissioner of Competition
Fair Business Practices Branch
Competition Bureau

Dated: 7.7.03



J. Howard Beales, III
Director
Bureau of Consumer Protection
U.S. Federal Trade Commission

Dated: 6/6/03

Lawrence E. Maxwell

Lawrence E. Maxwell

Inspector in Charge, Fraud, Child
Exploitation and Forfeiture
Division
United States Postal Inspection Services

Dated: 6/10/03

Bob Wasylyshen

Bob Wasylyshen

Chief of Police
Edmonton Police Service

Dated: 03 August 19

William Sweeney

The Commanding Officer "K" Division

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Dated: 03-07-30.

Gerry Bourdeau

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Deputy Minister
Alberta International and
Intergovernmental Relations

Dated: Sept. 11/05