

NEWS RELEASE

GATEWAY COLLECTIONS (ALBERTA) INC.

Calgary, May 31, 2004 - The Provincial Crown was ordered today to reimburse Gateway Collections (Alberta) Inc. ("Gateway") for \$8,409.83 of legal costs it incurred in defending charges laid pursuant to the *Fair Trading Act* back in January of 2003.

All charges against Gateway were stayed earlier this year by the trial judge after the Crown failed to disclose material evidence to the defence.

Gateway's counsel, Michael Bates, of Scott Hall LLP is hopeful that today's ruling will improve the justice system in our Province:

"There is an alarming trend of an increasing number of cases that are being stayed for lack of proper disclosure. There is no doubt that Crown Prosecutors are held to a high standard when it comes to disclosure obligations, but to have faith in our system we need to know that trials are being conducted fairly.

The Court's ruling today confirms the importance of full disclosure and reminds us that there are serious consequences for all participants when trial fairness is compromised."

Gateway President, Doug Appleton, remains dissatisfied despite today's ruling:

"We never did get the chance to fully defend ourselves. While we've been compensated for some of our legal expenses, the reputation of our company has been severely damaged.

Perhaps the Government of Alberta will reconsider how it administers the Fair Trading Act given the poor manner in which this whole process was handled."