

Contact:  
Mary Hughes  
Bureau Chief  
Consumer Finance Bureau  
(208) 332-8060

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 14, 2001

### **LENDER ORDERED TO CEASE IDAHO ACTIVITIES**

#### **Canadian Lender Used Boise Address to Solicit Loans**

BOISE, IDAHO – In an action brought by the Idaho Department of Finance, a hearing officer ordered Eastcastle Trading Group and Peter Lanigan to cease offering loans from Idaho.

Eastcastle advertised in “Thrifty Nickle” newspapers, and other similar newspapers, throughout the country that it could provide consumer loans. When consumers called the toll-free telephone number listed in the ads, they were asked questions by Eastcastle’s agent, Peter Lanigan, purportedly to determine if they qualified for a loan. The consumers were told they qualified for loans ranging from \$5,000 to \$75,000, and were instructed they would be required to forward one or two months loan payments in order to receive the money. Consumers who wished to pursue the loans were sent documents instructing them to send the payments as well as personal financial information to a Boise, Idaho, address via an overnight delivery service.

The Boise address was merely a private mailbox at a commercial mail-drop location. An investigation by the Department revealed that Eastcastle is actually located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The Cease and Desist Order in the Department's action orders the respondents to immediately cease engaging in the business of making regulated consumer loans in Idaho, or from any location in Idaho, without the license required under the Idaho Credit Code.

Gavin Gee, Director of the Department of Finance, cautions that any person offering to make consumer loans must be licensed by the Department if the loan contract is to be received in Idaho. Consumers can check on the license status of individuals and companies by calling the Department at (208) 332-8002 or toll-free within Idaho at 1-888-346-3378.

# # #

*Department of Finance press releases and other information are available on the Internet via the world wide web at <http://finance.state.id.us> and may be obtained by contacting the Department at (208) 332-8000, or toll-free in Idaho at 1-888-346-3378.*