



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Monday, July 17, 2006

Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Don Feith
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

CANADIAN CITIZEN SENTENCED FOR TELEMARKETING FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Project Colt Inspector Saverio Orlando today announced that Adhemar Baptiste, of Montreal, was sentenced to 78 months in federal prison for engaging in a telemarketing scheme originating in Canada that targeted United States citizens. Baptiste will also serve a three year period of supervised release after he is released from prison. During the supervised release period, his behavior will be monitored by the United States Probation Office and he is prohibited from engaging in telemarketing.

More than 80 victims were affected by the fraud. Intended losses from the fraud exceeded \$8 million dollars and \$6.4 million in restitution was ordered. Baptiste's share of the restitution obligation was more than \$1.5 million.

In June 2002, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Surete du Quebec, the Canadian Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Customs Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Montreal Police, working jointly to combat telemarketing fraud through an effort known as Project Colt, brought the investigation to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire. Those law enforcement agencies conducted extensive surveillance, monitored court ordered wiretaps and intercepted checks sent by the victims. It was the significant efforts of these agencies that broke up the telemarketing enterprise and resulted in the significant sentences in this case.

Other defendants sentenced in this case were David Johnson (121 months), Norman Redler (120 months), Nelson Azevedo (70 months), Sylvia Farmer (65 months), Kerwin Bentley (30 months) and Guy Desjardins (12 months and one day).

United States Attorney Colantuono stated: "Telemarketing fraud is a serious crime and is difficult to prevent. The telemarketers that created this fraud were professionals who were able to overcome the natural skepticism of their victims. Although this office is dedicated to finding and prosecuting these fraudsters, the best way to prevent fraud is to not allow yourself to be a victim. A person never should send money by mail or wire to anyone the person does not know."