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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT COMMENCED AGAINST LOCAL LOAN SHARKS

Money Mart and Quik Cash Ltd. have been named in class action lawsuits commenced in St. John's this month. The class actions claim damages arising from interest rates charged by payday lenders on short-term loans given to customers across the province since 1995. The representative plaintiff and proposed class in the claim against Money Mart and Quik Cash Ltd. are represented by the law firm of Ches Crosbie Barristers in St. John's.

The Statements of Claim, issued this month in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, allege that the lenders charge unlawful rates of interest on short-term, payroll advance loans to gainfully employed consumers.

In the claims it is alleged that interest charges exceed rates of interest permitted by the laws of Canada and of Newfoundland and Labrador. Randy Bellows, an individual who has borrowed money from both lenders, brings the action on behalf of all persons in the province who have taken or will take such loans and have paid or will pay interest on payday loans at rates that exceed the legal maximum of 60% annually.

The class action seeks damages and an order of the court declaring the interest charges illegal and void, an accounting of all sums of interest received by the defendants, and an order that the defendants make restitution to the class, among other relief.

The Statements of Claim also name officers and directors of Money Mart and Quik Cash as defendants. According to the Statement of Claim, all of the individual defendants are officers, directors and the controlling minds and alter egos of the companies who established the companies with a view to circumventing the law relating to maximum legal interest rates.

Counsel for the plaintiffs, Ches Crosbie, commented that "the plaintiffs in this suit are regular, hardworking people whose vulnerability has been exploited by the defendants."

The Statements of Claim can be viewed on the website of Ches Crosbie Barristers (www.chescrosbie.com). Anyone interested may apply to join the class action by filing in the online form. The identity of class members is confidential. Class members are not expected to pay legal fees unless the case is won at trial or settled on terms favorable to class members.

Information about the class actions can also be obtained by calling Ches Crosbie Barristers at 579-4000 or toll free at 1-888-579-3262, or by e-mail to ccb@chescrosbie.nf.net.