

Date: June 19, 2013

**M A N I T O B A**  
**THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD ACT**

**Research Report**

**Fillmore Riley LLP**

**Statistics Regarding  
Payday Lending Regulation in  
Other Provincial Jurisdictions**

**prepared for the  
2013 Payday Loans Hearing  
of  
The Public Utilities Board of Manitoba**

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## **1.0.0      INTRODUCTION**

There are currently six Canadian jurisdictions (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia) that regulate payday loans. In addition, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have developed regulatory regimes that are not yet in force.

This document summarizes various statistics applicable to other provincial jurisdictions with respect to the regulation of payday lenders., obtained upon the inquiry of various consumer departments in these jurisdictions.

## **2.0.0      BRITISH COLUMBIA PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS**

As of the end of 2011, there were 296 licensed payday lenders in British Columbia and, in a one-year period, approximately 130,000 borrowers taking out over 700,000 loans.<sup>1</sup>

Consumer Protection BC, which administers the Payday Loan Regulation, undertook 20 regulatory actions over the past year. The most significant decision rendered by Consumer Protection BC was a compliance order against The Cash Store Financial Services Inc. to refund consumers over \$1 million in fees and pay an administrative penalty in the amount of \$25,000. This order is currently under appeal.

## **3.0.0      ALBERTA PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS**

As of May 5, 2013, a total of 42 payday lending locations are licensed in Alberta. Over the past year, no enforcement action has been taken by the Alberta government related to payday loans. As of May 5, 2013, the Alberta government has one charge related to payday loans before the Courts. The charge relates to payday loan collection by The Cash Store Financial Services Inc.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Consumer Protection BC

<sup>2</sup> Source: Director of Fair Trading (as delegated), Service Alberta

#### **4.0.0 SASKATCHEWAN PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS**

As of April 25, 2013, 60 payday lending locations are registered in Saskatchewan. To date, no administrative penalties have been levied against any payday loan operators.<sup>3</sup>

#### **5.0.0 ONTARIO PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS**

As of April 24, 2013, a total of 962 payday lending locations are licensed in Ontario.

The Cash Store Financial Services Inc. has filed an application against the Government of Ontario seeking a declaration that certain regulations under the Ontario *Payday Loans Act* are void and unenforceable.

The Government of Ontario has filed an application against The Cash Store Financial Services Inc. seeking a declaration that the basic line of credit product offered in Ontario is subject to the province's *Payday Loans Act*. Both matters remain pending.

#### **6.0.0 NOVA SCOTIA PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS**

Nova Scotia currently has 51 licensed payday lending outlets.

#### **7.0.0 NEW BRUNSWICK PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS**

There are currently about 35 registrants under the *Cost of Credit Disclosure Act* that provide payday loans. As the new *Cost of Credit Disclosure and Payday Loans Act* is not yet in force, the government has taken no enforcement action against providers of payday loans. Enforcement of the *Cost of Credit Disclosure and Payday Loans Act* is

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<sup>3</sup> Source: Saskatchewan Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority

expected to be under the jurisdiction of the Financial Consumer Services Commission, which is anticipated to be in existence as of July 1, 2013.<sup>4</sup>

### **8.0.0      PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PAYDAY LENDING STATISTICS**

There is currently 3 or 4 payday lenders that have a physical presence in Prince Edward Island.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Source: Consumer Affairs Branch, New Brunswick Department of Justice and Attorney General

<sup>5</sup> Source: Prince Edward Island Department of Environment, Labour and Justice