



**PUBLIC
INTEREST
LAW
CENTRE**



**CENTRE
JURIDIQUE
DE
L'INTÉRÊT
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**AN INDEPENDENT
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LEGAL AID
MANITOBA**



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MANITOBA
BAR
ASSOCIATION**



**300 - 287 BROADWAY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
R3C 0R9**

TEL: 204.985.8540

FAX: 204.985.8544



E-MAIL: centre@pilc.mb.ca

Writer's direct line: (204) 985-8533
Email: bywil@pilc.mb.ca

February 23, 2016

Krista Bachynski
Consumer Protection Office
258 Portage Ave
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 0B6

Re: Data on payday lending companies

Dear Ms. Bachynski:

The Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) represents a coalition of consumers including Winnipeg Harvest, the Consumers' Association of Canada Manitoba Branch and Community Financial Counseling Service, who are hoping to participate as intervenors in the Public Utilities Board (PUB) review of maximum allowable charges and fees for payday loans hearing. The hearing takes place in April 2016.

As part of our research, one of our independent experts, Dr. Chris Robinson, is undertaking an analysis of the implications of regulation on the health of the payday lending industry. The Consumer Protection Office has already provided us with current information regarding the locations of payday lenders in Manitoba, as well as which payday lenders are licensed. **We are writing to ask for assistance from the Consumer Protection Office in providing us with any other available data regarding payday lenders for this expert analysis.**

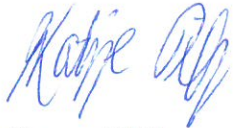
In particular, we are interesting in obtaining disaggregated or aggregated information relating to: the number of loans granted each year, the dollar volume of loans granted each year, the number and value of transactions per consumer, the average amount of a loan, and the value of loan losses. While the information would ideally be disaggregated at the store level, aggregated information at the company or industry level would also be very useful, especially if it captures the year over year experience of the industry.

In addition, we are also interested in obtaining verifiable financial information for payday lenders. Ideally, the financial information provided should be in the form of complete financial statements. If the financial statements are audited, the auditor's report would be acceptable for our purposes. If the financial statements are not audited, a Notice to Reader and a signed statement from the owner that the statements are complete and fairly prepared would be sufficient. Dr. Robinson advises that at least six (6) years of verifiable financial information would be very helpful in his analysis.

This information is important to conduct our research on the implications of regulation on the health of the payday lending industry. Our expert, Dr. Robinson, is independent and will be providing his analysis based on the data that is available to him.

Thank you very much and we look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katye Williams".

for: Byron Williams
Attorney

BW/kd



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Email: bywil@pilc.mb.ca

January 26, 2016

Darren Christle
Public Utilities Board
330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
R3C 0C4

Re: Financial information of payday lending companies

Dear Mr. Christle:

The Public Interest Law Centre (PILC) represents a coalition of consumers including Winnipeg Harvest, the Consumers' Association of Canada Manitoba Branch, and Community Financial Counseling Service, who are hoping to participate as intervenors in the Public Utilities Board (PUB) review of maximum allowable charges and fees for payday loans hearing, taking place in April 2016.

A part of our research, one of our independent experts, Dr. Chris Robinson, is undertaking an analysis of the implications of regulation on the health of the payday lending industry. **We are writing to ask for assistance from the PUB in providing us with the best available financial information regarding payday lenders for this expert analysis.** Unfortunately, the publicly available data on these companies is extremely limited. Although there is some limited information on the companies that are in operation in Manitoba, including their location, there does not appear to be any publicly available verifiable financial information.

Ideally, this information should be in the form of complete financial statements. If the financial statements are audited, the auditor's report would be acceptable for our purposes. If the financial statements are not audited, a Notice to Reader and a signed statement from the owner that the statements are complete and fairly prepared would be sufficient.

Dr. Robinson advises that at least six (6) years of verifiable financial information would be very helpful in his analysis. In addition, if it is not shown in the financial statements, information relating to the number of loans granted each year, the value of loan losses, and the dollar volume of loans granted would be most useful.

This information is important to conduct our research on the implications of regulation on the health of the payday lending industry. Our expert, Dr. Robinson, is independent and will be providing his analysis based on the data that is available to him.

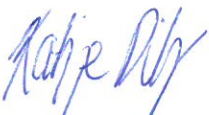
Confidentiality

We recognize that certain payday lending firms may take the position that this information is commercially sensitive and should not be disclosed. We note Rule 13 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the PUB which provides for the protection of information received in confidence by the PUB, specifically Rule 13.2)b)i), which applies to financial or commercial information.

PILC has prepared a draft non-disclosure agreement to provide for the confidentiality of the information provided by payday lending companies, and is prepared to sign the agreement. It can advise that only the Public Interest Law Centre, as the recipient of the data, and Dr. Robinson will have access to the information. Dr. Robinson will not disclose individual company data in his research, but only composite data.

If the information provided is substantive and Dr. Robinson requires assistance to work through the data, the non-disclosure agreement could be expanded to one other person with sufficient expertise who works with Dr. Robinson. Dr. Robinson is a Chartered Professional Accountant and a Certified Financial Planner and would be subject to disciplinary proceedings should he violate the non-disclosure agreement.

Yours truly,



For: Byron Williams
Attorney

BW/kd

Non-Dislosure Agreement

The financial information provided by _____
(Company name) will be used for the purposes of:
Research on the implications of regulation on the health of the payday lending industry

The financial information provided pursuant to this request will not be disclosed except in the form of composite data.

The Provider (Company)

The Recipient (Public Interest Law Centre)

The Recipient (Dr. Chris Robinson)

Subject: Payday lending data request
From: "Dyce, Beatrice (CCA)" <Beatrice.Dyce@gov.mb.ca>
Date: 07/03/16 09:05 AM
To: Katrine Dilay <kadil@legalaid.mb.ca>

Good morning Katrine Dilay,

I am writing in regards to your correspondence of February 29, 2016. The Consumer Protection Office does not have access to the data requested in your letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-945-4259 or via email at beatrice.dyce@gov.mb.ca.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Dyce
Acting Director
Consumer Protection Office
204-945-4259