

October 11, 2006

STENEHJEM ISSUES CEASE & DESIST ORDER AGAINST CANADIAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY SCAMMERS

BISMARCK – Montreal scam artists Garo Manoug and Vatche Manoug, doing business under names including National Business Information Exchange, Inc., NBIE, yourcompanylisting.com, Corporate Information Exchange, Inc. and Cinex, Inc., have been barred by Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem from doing business in North Dakota. The Manougs' operation involved sending bogus invoices and demand letters to North Dakota businesses for listings in "business directories."

The scammers send fake invoices ranging from \$249 to \$798 to businesses and list an address in the United States to make it appear they are an American company. The company is actually located in Canada, where consumers have little or no recourse. When businesses objected to the charges, the Manougs would send falsified "contracts" with faked signatures copied from prior correspondence. "There is a whole industry built up around these business directory scams in Canada," Stenehjem said. "Businesses should be on the lookout for questionable billings for services which they never requested and which are of virtually no value."

Garo Manoug and his attorney have provided inconsistent explanations for the violations of North Dakota law and have refused to provide information requested by the Attorney General during the course of his investigation.

Court Document:
[Cease and Desist Order](#)