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**Calais Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charge**

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Bruce Thibeault**, 34, of Calais, Maine, was sentenced on November 20, 2008, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, to 12 months and 1 day in prison, a \$2000 fine, 2 years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment, for transferring a firearm to a non-resident. On July 22, 2008, Thibeault pleaded guilty to that charge.

Court records reveal that Thibeault's conviction stems from a joint ICE-ATF-RCMP investigation into cross-border firearms trafficking. In May 2007, an undercover RCMP officer and an undercover ATF agent entered Johnson's True Value Hardware in Calais, Maine where Thibeault was employed as a clerk in the sporting goods department. After some discussion, Thibeault sold a handgun to the RCMP officer, knowing that the officer was not a Maine resident. Court records further show that Thibeault had participated in similar sales on other occasions.

This case was part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. The initiative coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies in order to increase the successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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