

'Natural person' evades taxes, headed to jail - naturally | Home



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It was an offer Rosalie Chobotar couldn't refuse.

The Winnipeg chiropractor was sentenced Monday to six months in jail for tax evasion, after a judge rejected her claim she was a "natural person" under no obligation to pay taxes.

"With all due respect your honour, I do not accept your offer," Chobotar said as Sheriff's officers moved to take her into custody.

Chobotar, 53, was convicted after trial of evading \$162,500 in taxes between 2001 and 2008.

Chobotar refused to be identified by her name, claiming it referred to a "legal entity," not the "flesh and blood woman" standing in court.

"There is no law that compels me to be identified by that name," Chobotar told Judge Lynn Stannard.

Chobotar is the first person in recent memory in Manitoba to be sentenced to real jail for tax evasion.

Crown attorney Rob Gosman said Chobotar's "ridiculous antics" disentitled her to any consideration of a conditional sentence served in the community.

Court heard Chobotar previously walked out of her trial, only to return when a warrant was issued for her arrest.

On Monday, she presented a letter to court demanding \$10 million pay for serving any sentence of the court.

"At no point have I ever willingly agreed to legally represent a taxpayer in these proceedings and I certainly have never agreed to do it for free," Chobotar wrote.

Gosman questioned whether Chobotar might be "mentally unstable," noting she has appeared perfectly rational when the occasion demanded it.

"If she has fallen under the influence of other people, that is most unfortunate," Gosman said.

"The irony here is that as a chiropractor, many of the services she provides her customers are tax-paid services," he said. "Her customers are paying their taxes so Ms. Chobotar can earn her very handsome income ... and completely ignore her obligations to the citizenry."

Stannard said Chobotar was motivated by "self-centred greed."

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Stannard ordered that Chobtar pay a fine equal to 100% of the taxes she evaded.

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