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## **MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR ONTARIO'S WORKERS AND BUSINESSES**

*Ticketing Uncertified Trades Workers Will Help Create A Safer, Fairer Construction Industry*

QUEEN'S PARK — The McGuinty Government is protecting legitimate businesses, workers and the public by taking further action to combat the underground economy in Ontario's construction industry, Labour Minister Steve Peters announced today.

"The underground economy is a serious drain on Ontario's economy and a major problem in the construction sector," said Peters. "These new steps, along with increased enforcement already underway, will help ensure a safer, fairer and more stable construction industry — and that is good for the economy and the people of Ontario."

To strengthen the enforcement of training requirements for trades workers in Ontario, the government will now grant Ministry of Labour inspectors the power to issue on-the-spot tickets to uncertified trades workers who require compulsory certification.

Ticketing these workers will help create safer workplaces by ensuring that only qualified workers undertake construction and that all workers, supervisors and employers play by the rules.

This is part of the government's overall strategy to better enforce health and safety regulations and legislation to help meet the goal of reducing workplace injuries by 20 per cent by 2008 and combat the underground economy in Ontario's construction sector.

"This step represents an important part of our fight to make sure everybody working in construction plays by the rules and has the proper qualifications to ensure public safety and fair competition," said Peters. "Our goal is to ensure the vital construction sector continues to be a driving force in our economy."

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**Note:** The Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice has now made an order to establish set fines for the tickets. Effective April 2, 2006, tickets can be issued to unauthorized workers performing work in a compulsory trade with fines of \$195, and to their supervisors and employers with fines of \$295. There is an additional \$5 for court costs and a 25 per cent Victim Fine Surcharge added to each ticket.