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For Immediate Release
September 25, 2006

BAFFIN INC. FINED \$60,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

HAMILTON, Ont. – Baffin Inc., a Stoney Creek, Ont.-based manufacturer of footwear such as snow boots and work boots, was fined \$60,000 on September 21, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious hand injuries to an employee.

On June 1, 2005, a worker was installing a component of an “injection-moulding machine” (a machine used in the manufacturing of footwear) when a control switch was suddenly activated causing a mould to rise up and crush the worker’s right hand. As a result of the incident, the worker suffered amputation of the small finger as well as amputation of part of the right hand. The incident occurred at the company’s plant at 346 Arvin Avenue in Stoney Creek.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the main part of the injection-moulding machine with several moulding stations was locked out, but the switch that allowed movement up and down of the mould involved in the incident was not locked out.

Baffin Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure a control switch on the injection-moulding machine was locked out and other effective precautions were taken to prevent any starting that could endanger a worker’s safety, as required by Section 76 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice John Takach of the Ontario Court of Justice in Hamilton. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
45 Main Street East, Courtroom 308
Hamilton, Ontario

Judge: Justice John Takach

Date / Time: September 21, 2006, 11:30 a.m.

Defendant: Baffin Inc.

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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