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For Immediate Release  
November 20, 2006

## **ESTATE HARDWOOD FLOORS CORP. FINED \$90,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION**

RENFREW, Ont. – Estate Hardwood Floors Corp., a Halifax, N.S.-based hardwood floor manufacturer that operates a sawmill in Renfrew, was fined \$90,000 on November 17, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in serious injuries to an employee.

On April 26, 2005, a worker was operating a “debarker machine” (a machine that strips bark off logs) when the worker’s sleeve came in contact with the debarker’s exposed, rotating “power-take-off shaft” (a long cylindrical component that turns at high speed when the debarker is in operation). The worker was drawn into the power-take-off shaft. The incident occurred at the company’s sawmill at 2 Innovation Drive in Renfrew.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the power-take-off shaft did not have a guarding device to prevent access, as required by law.

Estate Hardwood Floors Corp. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the power-take-off shaft was guarded, as required by Section 24 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Louise Girault of the Ontario Court of Justice in Renfrew. 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

<b>Location:</b>	Ontario Court of Justice 127 Raglan Street Renfrew, Ontario
<b>Judge:</b>	Justice of the Peace Louise Girault
<b>Date / Time:</b>	November 17, 2006, 9 a.m.
<b>Defendant:</b>	Estate Hardwood Floors Corp.
<b>Matter:</b>	Occupational Health & Safety

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