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For Immediate Release
July 20, 2006

QUALITY MACHINING & METALWORKS INC. AND COMPANY PRESIDENT FINED FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS

BRAMPTON, Ont. – Quality Machining & Metalworks Inc., a manufacturer of steel products based in Mississauga, Ont., was fined \$60,000 and the company president was fined \$3,500, both on July 19, 2006, for one violation each of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in a serious hand injury to an employee.

On April 25, 2005, a worker was operating a “brake press” (a machine used to flatten sheets of steel) when the press closed on the worker’s left hand in the area of the “die/ram” (a metal stamping component). The worker suffered crushing injuries to the hand and was taken to hospital where the hand had to be amputated at the wrist. The incident occurred at the company’s manufacturing plant at 1655 Enterprise Road in Mississauga.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found a “pinch point” was created on the press at the point where the downward-moving upper die/ram came in contact with the stationary lower die. There was no guarding device to prevent access to the pinch point. The injured worker had been assigned to operate the press by the company president/supervisor who had been operating the press but had to leave to attend to other duties.

Quality Machining & Metalworks Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer to failing to ensure the press was equipped with, and guarded by, a guard or other device to prevent access to pinch points in the die area, as required by Section 25 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act

In addition, the company president pleaded guilty, as a supervisor, to failing to ensure the press was equipped with, and guarded by, a guard or other device to prevent access to pinch points in the die area, as required by Section 25 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 27(1)(a) of the act.

The fines were imposed by Justice Vibert Rosemay of the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. 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
7755 Hurontario Street, Courtroom 103
Brampton, Ontario

Judge: Justice Vibert Rosemay

Date / Time: July 19, 2006, 10 a.m.

Defendant: Quality Machining & Metalworks Inc.; and
the company president

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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