

# News Release Communiqué



Ministry of the  
Environment

Ministère de  
l'Environnement

For Immediate Release  
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## **FORMER MUNICIPAL DRINKING-WATER OPERATOR FINED \$10,000**

MISSISSAUGA — A former operator working for the municipal drinking-water system in the Regional Municipality of Peel has been fined a total of \$10,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to two offences under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The municipality owns and operates a municipal drinking-water system in Brampton that provides drinking water to about 480,000 residents.

The Court was told that provincial officers from the Ministry of the Environment inspected the drinking-water plant in February 2005 and found that an operator, David Woods, was using a counterfeit certificate.

Woods' certificate as an operator expired in December 31, 1997 and he has never been re-certified. Woods began working for the municipality's water department in 1984. His employment ended in May 2005. The Court was told he provided the municipality with the counterfeit certificate.

The Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, prohibits anyone from operating a municipal drinking-water system without a valid operator's certificate.

Following an investigation by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch, charges were laid.

Woods pleaded guilty to one count of operating a municipal drinking-water system without a valid certificate, contrary to Section 12(1) of the SDWA, and one count of including false or misleading information in a required document, contrary to Section 138(2) of the SDWA. He was fined \$5,000 on each count.

Justice of the Peace J.H. Jackson heard the case in the Ontario Court of Justice in Mississauga, Ontario, on March 10, 2006.

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