

For Immediate Release
September 20, 2006

VEHICLE OWNER FINED \$2,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT VIOLATION

KINGSTON—Joseph D. Bender has been fined \$2,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to using a false vehicle emissions test certificate (Drive Clean Certificate) to renew his vehicle's licence plates.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and its licensing agencies are agents of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for the purpose of the Drive Clean Program.

The Court heard that in August 2005, Bender renewed the licence plates for his 1988 pickup truck by submitting a fake Drive Clean Certificate to MTO's Drivers and Vehicle Licencing and Issuing Office on Bath Road in Kingston. The certificate indicated that Bender's truck had passed the emissions test.

An investigation later conducted by the MOE's Investigations and Enforcement Branch revealed that the Drive Clean Certificate submitted by Bender had originally been issued for another vehicle, and had been altered to appear as though it had been issued for Bender's truck.

Joseph D. Bender pleaded guilty to one count of submitting false or misleading information to an agent of the MOE, contrary to section 184(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act*. He was fined \$2,000 for the offence.

Justice of the Peace Fred M. Ross sentenced Joseph D. Bender on August 31, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Kingston.

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