

For Immediate Release
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SPOUSE OF VEHICLE OWNER FINED \$3,000 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT VIOLATION

KITCHENER—Jean Baptiste Meludie has been fined \$3,000, plus a victim fine surcharge, after pleading guilty to using a false vehicle emissions test certificate (Drive Clean Certificate) to renew a 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, Meludie's wife submitted a Drive Clean Certificate for her 1998 Mazda Protégé to MTO's Drivers and Vehicle Licensing and Issuing Office on Krug Street in Kitchener. The certificate indicated that Mrs. Meludie's vehicle had passed the emissions test, and MTO therefore renewed her licence plates.

An investigation later conducted by the MOE's Investigations and Enforcement Branch revealed that the Drive Clean Certificate submitted by Mrs. Meludie was not authentic. Jean Baptiste Meludie had purchased the certificate for his wife's vehicle; Mrs. Meludie did not know that the certificate was fraudulent.

Jean Baptiste Meludie pleaded guilty to being a party to the offence 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 \$3,000 for the offence.

Justice of the Peace McMahon sentenced Jean Baptiste Meludie on August 28, 2006 in the Ontario Court of Justice in Kitchener.

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Contacts:
John Steele
Communications Branch
(416) 314-6666

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