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For Immediate Release
February 23, 2010

Business Owner Fined \$10,000 For Employment Standards Violations

St. Catharines, Ont. – Business owner James Szanto was fined \$10,000 on February 19, 2010, for violating the Employment Standards Act by failing to pay wages and failing to comply with an order to pay wages.

The Ministry of Labour investigated claims for outstanding wages filed by three former employees of Mr. Szanto. Each employee had worked for a different unincorporated business owned by Mr. Szanto: James Szanto Custom Carpentry and JS Ltd., both in Welland, and Szanto Construction in St Catharines. Mr. Szanto owed a total of \$3440.84 in unpaid wages.

James Szanto pleaded guilty to three counts of failing to pay wages. He was fined \$2,000 for each count. Mr. Szanto also pleaded guilty to one count of failing to comply with an order to pay wages. He was fined \$4,000 for this offence.

The fines were imposed by Justice of the Peace David Brown. In addition to the fine, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge on the total, 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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For further information:

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Court Information at a Glance

Location:	Ontario Court of Justice 71 King St. E. St. Catharines, Ont.
Judge:	Justice of the Peace David Brown
Date of Conviction:	February 19, 2010
Defendants:	James Szanto
Matter:	Employment Standards
Convictions:	Section 11(5) of the Employment Standards Act Section 103(8) of the Employment Standards Act
Provincial Prosecutor:	Hannah Turner



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