



## Media Release

Mississauga Contractor Fined \$15,000  
for Pipeline Strike

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*Lakeside Contracting prosecuted for unsafe digging practices*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, May 20, 2016)** – The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) successfully prosecuted Lakeside Contracting Company, a Mississauga contractor, for hitting a Halton Hills gas pipeline, contrary to the Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems Regulation ([Ontario 210/01](#)).

The Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington accepted a guilty plea from Lakeside and fined the company \$15,000 plus the mandatory 25% victim fine surcharge for a total penalty of \$18,750.

“This was a near miss for a potentially deadly scenario,” said John Marshall, Director of TSSA’s Fuels Safety Program. “Hitting a pipeline with pressurized gas can cause explosions, damage and death. That’s why Ontario has stringent laws around pipeline safety, including the rule to obtain a locate before breaking ground,” added Mr. Marshall.

In August 2015, a TSSA inspector received notice of a natural gas pipeline strike in Halton Hills, Ontario and determined the incident was caused by Lakeside Contracting Company while performing work on a water main. The incident left homes and businesses in the area without natural gas for hours.

While Lakeside had a valid locate to dig in the area, as required by law, their excavation area was within 1.5 meters of the gas main, which necessitated the presence of a Union Gas representative. No Union Gas employee was present and Lakeside subsequently struck the pipeline.

Any excavation work must comply with Ontario’s safety laws, including obtaining a valid locate from the license holder or gas utility before breaking ground. Safe digging practices must still be maintained as any pipeline strike, regardless of a locate or not, will result in legal action.

Free locates can be obtained from Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit <http://on1call.com>. Please note that the conditions of your locate and/or the proximity of your dig site to the gas main may dictate the supervisory presence of the gas provider.

Ontario Regulation 210/01 prohibits interfering with or damaging a pipeline and any damage and/or subsequent release of gas should be immediately reported to the Ministry of Environment’s Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060 or by contacting TSSA toll-free at 1-877-682-8772.

#### *About TSSA*

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is Ontario’s public safety regulator mandated by the Government of Ontario to enforce provincial safety regulations and enhance public safety. Throughout Ontario, TSSA regulates the safety of amusement devices, boilers and pressure vessels, elevating devices, fuels, operating engineers, ski lifts, and upholstered and stuffed articles. Its range of safety services include public education and consumer information, certification, licensing and registration, engineering design review, inspections, investigations, safety management consultation, and enforcement and prosecution activities. The organization’s vision is to be a valued advocate and recognized authority in public safety.

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#### **For more information, please contact:**

Wilson Lee, Spokesperson

Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Telephone: 1-877-682-8772; Email: [media@tssa.org](mailto:media@tssa.org)

For more information on the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org).