legal matters INJURY LAW

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Q

I am a student starting a summer job soon. What do I do if my boss wants me to do something unsafe or dangerous?

It can be hard to stand up for yourself in the workplace especially if you are a student and are worried about losing your job, BUT more people in Ontario are injured on the job than in car accidents. Every day in Ontario nearly 50 young workers are injured or killed on the job. Employers and supervisors must under the law protect you and make sure your workplace is safe.

You have the right to refuse unsafe work or working conditions. You have the right to know what hazards are present in the workplace. You must be given proper safety equipment such as fall protection equipment, hard hats and protective goggles etc. Insist that you are given proper training when working with machinery or operating tow motors etc. Do not remove any machine guarding or take short cuts because your employer tells you that it will make things go quicker. If the workplace is unsafe either for yourself or your coworkers report this immediately to your supervisor and employer and also to your family. Let your family know what's going on in your workplace.

If they don't take steps to rectify the unsafe workplace then call the Ministry of Labour at 1-877-202-0008 and report it.

Your employer cannot reprimand you, threaten to fire you or fire you if you refuse to work because the workplace is unsafe.

The advice offered in this column is intended for informational purposes only. Use of this column is not intended to replace or substitute any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice.

## COMMUNITY



Photo by Eamonn Maher

From left, Jennifer McNally and Mary McPherson of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation accept a cheque worth \$5,700 from McDonald's Restaurants of Halton Hills owners Tim and Casey O'Connor, the proceeds from McHappy Day last month.

## McHappy Day raises \$11,400

EAMONN MAHER

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A record number of volunteers turned out for the annual McHappy Day festivities on May 3 at the McDonald's Restaurants in Georgetown and Acton, helping raise \$11,400 between the two locations.

Half of that money will go to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation and the other half to Ronald McDonald House Children's Charities (RMHC). One dollar from every Big Mac, Happy Meal and Hot McCafe beverage sold was donated to those two organizations.

The funds raised for the hospital will go toward its new jaundice centre.





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