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Real Estate Council of Ontario

News Release

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RECO INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION LEAD TO SIX-MONTH JAIL SENTENCE FOR FORMER REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON

Mark Hope took commissions which should have been paid to his brokerage

On December 6, 2007, Mark Hope, a former real estate salesperson was convicted and sentenced to 6 months in jail as a result of a Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO) investigation into a number of consumer complaints. Mr. Hope had been receiving commission and other fees directly from consumers.

Consumers who are asked to make payments to any person other than the brokerage their real estate representative works for should contact RECO and the brokerage immediately. Real estate brokers and salespersons are only permitted to collect commission or remuneration from their employing brokerage.

Mr. Hope's trial was held at the Newmarket Provincial Offences Act court. He was found guilty on three counts of accepting commission or other remuneration from a person other than the brokerage that employed him.

On the first count, the court sentenced him to six months in jail and one year probation to begin immediately upon his release from jail. He was also ordered to pay fines of \$5,000 on each of the remaining two counts, totaling \$10,000.

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The Real Estate Council of Ontario (RECO) is the delegated administrative authority responsible for administering the Real Estate and Business Brokers Act, 2002 and associated regulations on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services. In order to trade in real estate in Ontario, brokers and salespersons must be registered under the Real Estate and Business Brokers Act, 2002.

RECO's mission is to regulate the activity of trading in real estate in the public interest. For more information about the Real Estate Council of Ontario, visit www.reco.on.ca