

An appeal

- by -

0770653 BC Ltd. carrying on business as Roughneck Light Oilfield Hauling ("Roughneck")

- of a Determination issued by -

The Director of Employment Standards (the "Director")

pursuant to Section 112 of the Employment Standards Act R.S.B.C. 1996, C.113 (as amended)

TRIBUNAL MEMBER: Shafik Bhalloo

**FILE No.:** 2008A/40

**DATE OF DECISION:** June 18, 2008





# DECISION

### **OVERVIEW**

- <sup>1.</sup> This is an appeal pursuant to Section 112 of the *Employment Standards Act* (the "Act") brought by 0770653 BC Ltd. carrying on business as Roughneck Light Oilfield Hauling ("Roughneck") of a determination that was issued on January 3, 2008 (the "Determination") by a delegate (the "Delegate") of the Director of Employment Standards (the "Director").
- <sup>2.</sup> The Determination concluded that Roughneck contravened the Act by failing to pay its former employee Reuben Gullackson ("Gullackson") wages in the amount of \$26,838.85 and vacation pay in the amount of \$2,238.15 and ordered Roughneck to pay Gullackson both these amounts plus interest of \$1,050.75 thereon pursuant to Section 88 of the Act.
- <sup>3.</sup> The Determination also imposed two administrative penalties of \$500 each on Roughneck pursuant to Section 29(1) of the *Employment Standards Regulation* ("Regulation"). The first administrative penalty was for Roughneck's failure to keep proper payroll records pertaining to Gullackson's employment and the second for Roughneck's contravention of Section 18 of the Act for failure to pay Gullackson all wages owed to him within six days after Gullackson terminated his employment with Roughneck.
- <sup>4.</sup> Roughneck, through its counsel, appeals the Determination pursuant to Sections 112(1)(a) and (c) of the Act. Under the former section, Roughneck argues that that the Director erred in law in calculating the wages owed by Roughneck to Gullackson when relying on Gullackson's gross and not net monthly earnings. Under the latter section, Roughneck asserts that new evidence has become available that was not available at the time the Determination was made and seeks to adduce that evidence through two witnesses, namely, Robert McAdam ("McAdam"), a Director of Roughneck, and Ron Swanson ("Swanson"), a former employee of Roughneck. Roughneck contends that if the evidence of McAdam and Swanson "had been before the Delegate at the time of the Determination, no person acting judicially, could have come to the factual determination" the Delegate made in the Determination. I will set out the alleged "new evidence" under the heading "Roughneck's Submissions" herein.
- <sup>5.</sup> Roughneck requests an oral hearing of its appeal to enable it to call McAdam and Swanson to give their evidence. Both McAdam and Swanson live in Fort Nelson and Roughneck requests that they be permitted to give oral evidence by telephone. In the alternative to an oral hearing, Roughneck requests that McAdam and Swanson be allowed to give their evidence in the form of sworn Affidavits. As a result of my ruling on Roughneck's "new evidence" ground of appeal under the heading "Analysis" herein, an oral hearing is not necessary in this case. Furthermore, with respect to the remaining ground of appeal whether the Delegate erred in law in calculating the wages owed to Gullackson. I am of the view that the matter does not warrant an oral hearing, since the parties have fairly and adequately presented their positions on the latter issue in their written submissions and I am in a position to deal with the matter more efficiently without an oral hearing. Therefore, this appeal will be decided based on the written submissions of the parties, the Section 112(5) "Record" and the Reasons for the Determination.



### **ISSUES**

- <sup>6.</sup> The issues to be determined in this appeal are twofold:
  - (i) Did the Director err in law when calculating the wages owed by Roughneck to Gullackson on the basis of the latter's gross monthly earnings as opposed to net earnings after statutory deductions?
  - (ii) Is there evidence that has become available that was not available at the time the Determination was being made, and, if so, does that evidence justify changing or varying the Determination in any manner?

### FACTS

- <sup>7.</sup> Roughneck operates an oilfield hauling business and employed Gullackson as a dispatcher and/or shop supervisor from January 1, 2007 to August 5, 2007.
- <sup>8.</sup> Gullackson filed a complaint pursuant to Section 74 of the Act alleging that Roughneck contravened the Act by failing to pay him regular wages (the "Complaint").
- <sup>9.</sup> The Delegate held a hearing of the Complaint on January 3, 2008 (the "Hearing"). Gullackson attended at the Hearing on his own behalf and Penny Komish ("Komish"), Office Administrator of Roughneck, appeared on behalf of Roughneck.
- <sup>10.</sup> In the Determination, the Delegate, in point form, summarizes the evidence tendered by each party and under the heading "Findings and Analysis" points out some inconsistencies or differences in the evidence of the parties and makes his own findings of fact in those instances. I have reviewed all of the evidence adduced by the parties including the findings of fact of the Delegate and do not find it necessary to reiterate them all here except for the evidence and findings of fact that pertain to the issues raised by Roughneck in its appeal.
- <sup>11.</sup> At the Hearing, the Delegate notes that Komish, after earlier testifying that Gullackson started employment with Roughneck in February 2007, agreed later that Gullackson's start date of his employment with Roughneck was January 1, 2007.
- <sup>12.</sup> Both Gullackson and Komish also agreed that the last day of Gullackson's work was August 5, 2007 and his rate of pay was \$5,000.00 per month net.
- <sup>13.</sup> The Delegate notes that while Roughneck claims that it closed its business for holidays in July 2007 and apprised its employees of the same verbally, Roughneck "appears to contradict that statement" by stating also that there was lots of work to be done in June through August. On Gullackson's part, he claims to have worked for Roughneck throughout this period
- <sup>14.</sup> Roughneck pointed out through Komish that it did not keep any records of dates or times Gullackson worked but claimed that Gullackson came and went as he pleased. Komish also noted that there was work in July and August that was supposed to be done by Gullackson, which Roughneck had to contract out. However, if there were any issues with Gullackson's performance or lack of attendance or tardiness,



Roughneck did not take any disciplinary measure against Gullackson during the latter's employment with Roughneck.

- <sup>15.</sup> In respect of payments made to Gullackson during his employment with Roughneck, the Delegate noted in the Determination that according to Gullackson Roughneck paid him \$2,000.00 on January 15, 2007; \$2,500.00 on February 5, 2007; \$1,250.00 on June 12, 2007; \$2,500.00 on June 20, 2007; and \$500.00 (money order) and a \$1,000.00 cheque on August 2, 2007. According to Gullackson, the \$1,000.00 cheque was returned or did not clear, as there were insufficient funds in Roughneck's account. In total, Gullackson stated he received wages of \$24,901.89 from Roughneck during his employment with the latter when he should have been paid \$35,000.00. The Director did not itemize the documentary evidence in the form of wage statements or pay stubs or cheques paid to Gullackson but which form part of the Section 112(5) Record. I only make this observation at this juncture to point out that the payments referred by the Delegate above do not total the amount Gullackson admits he was paid by Roughneck and there is clearly more evidence of payments made to Gullackson in the Section 112(5) record adduced in this appeal.
- <sup>16.</sup> Komish, in her testimony, indicated that there was a further payment to Gullackson from Roughneck in the amount of \$2,000.00 cash during the latter's employment with Roughneck which Gullackson denies receiving. There is also no receipt or documentation for the alleged payment.
- <sup>17.</sup> Komish also testified that Gullackson successfully negotiated the \$1,000.00 cheque paid to him on or about August 2, 2007 on August 22, 2007 and adduced a copy of the cheque showing that it was successfully negotiated.
- 18. The Delegate, after reviewing the cheques and wage statements adduced by Roughneck at the Hearing, used the gross pay of Gullackson to calculate outstanding wages. In particular, the Delegate relied on a couple of wage statements showing the gross amount that Gullackson was entitled to for each pay period was \$3,905.00, which translated to \$2,500.00 in net pay. Accordingly, the Delegate deduced that the gross monthly amount of pay of Gullackson to be 2 x \$3,905.00 for a total of \$7,810.00. According to the Delegate, for the seven-month period from January 1, 2007 to the end of July 2007, Gullackson's pay was \$54,670.00 gross (7 x \$7,810.00). In addition, the Delegate calculated the 5 days in August 2007 that Gullackson worked at a per diem of \$256.77 gross, for a total of \$1,283.85 gross. The total of the foregoing amounts is \$55,953.85. The Delegate calculated 4% vacation pay on that gross amount and arrived at a figure of \$2,238.15. Adding both the wages Gullackson was entitled to for the entire period of his employment (7 months and 5 days) (\$55,953.85) plus the 4% vacation pay thereon (\$2,238.15), the Delegate arrived at the total of \$58,192.00. From that latter amount the Delegate subtracted the amount he calculated as wages Roughneck paid to Gullackson during his employment (\$29,115.00). As a result, the Delegate arrived at amount of \$29,077 gross for the outstanding wages due to Gullackson. The Delegate summarizes his calculation in the Determination as follows:

January 1, 20	07 through August 5, 2007
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7 months @ \$7,810.00 = 5 days @ \$ 256.77 =	\$54,670.00 <u>\$ 1,283.85</u>
4% vacation pay	\$55,953.85 <u>\$ 2,238.15</u>
	\$58,192.00
Wages paid as per statements	\$29,115.00
Outstanding wages	\$29,077.00



- <sup>19.</sup> It should be noted that in the Delegate's calculations above, the latter included the payment by Roughneck of the \$1,000 cheque to Gullackson on August 2, 2007, as Gullackson successfully negotiated that cheque on August 22, 2007. However, the Delegate did not include in his calculations the alleged \$2000 cash payment to Gullackson, as there was no documentary evidence for the same.
- <sup>20.</sup> I also note that while the Delegate, in his calculations, arrived at the amount of \$29,115 for wages paid to Gullackson based on wage statements adduced by Roughneck in evidence, I was unable to arrive at that net amount. I calculated the wages paid to Gullackson by Roughneck at \$24,901.89, based on my review of the wage statements and cheques contained in the Record produced to me in this appeal. Therefore, I am not certain how the Director arrived at the figure of \$29,115.00 for wages paid to Gullackson.
- <sup>21.</sup> Finally, the Delegate noted in the Determination that while Roughneck took issue with Gullackson's alleged use of the company fuel card for personal trips and wanted an offset or deduction of the amount allegedly attributed to Gullackson's personal use, the Delegate refused to allow for any offset or deduction from the wages owed to Gullackson stating that the matter was a policy/disciplinary issue that should have been dealt with at the time when Roughneck became aware.

### **ROUGHNECK'S SUBMISSIONS**

#### (I) Error of Law in Calculating Wages Owed to Gullackson

- <sup>22.</sup> Roughneck asserts that the Delegate erred in law by determining wages payable to Gullackson based on the estimate of the gross monthly wages earned by Gullackson of \$7,810.00, rather than on the net monthly earnings of \$5,000.00. According to Roughneck, Section 153 of the *Income Tax Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c.1 and the *Income Tax Act Regulations*, permit it to make source deductions from Gullackson's wages for Federal Tax, Canada Pension Plan contributions and Employment Insurance premiums and to remit these amounts to the Receiver General of Canada. Therefore, Roughneck argues that these remittances do not properly form part of the wages that an employer pays to an employee and should not form the basis for determining wages owed to an employee under the *Act*.
- <sup>23.</sup> Roughneck submits, together with its written submissions, a matrix of all wage payments made to Gullackson from January 2007 and includes the alleged \$2,000.00 cash payment (which the Delegate rejected in his calculations) to arrive at a total of \$26,091.26 in wages paid to Gullackson. Roughneck proposes to subtract this amount from what it calculates as the total net amount of wages (\$31,561.06) and vacation pay (\$1,262.44) Gullackson was entitled to receive during the period January 15, 2007 (the date Roughneck argues in its appeal as the date Gullackson commenced work with Roughneck) to August 5, 2007 (the end date of his employment). On the basis of the foregoing, Roughneck calculates the net amount of wages owed to Gullackson of \$6,732.24 plus accrued interest pursuant to Section 88 of the *Act*.
- <sup>24.</sup> Roughneck, in further support of its position that the Delegate should have relied on the net monthly pay of Gullackson to calculate wages owed to him, relies on Section 21(1) of the *Act* stating that the said Section permits Roughneck to make source deductions from Gullackson's wages.
- <sup>25.</sup> Roughneck also claims that "(i)n this case, the Appellant, as it was required to do pursuant to the *Income Tax Act* and the *Income Tax Act Regulations*, deducted Federal tax, Canada Pension Plan contributions and Employment Insurance premiums from Gullackson's gross monthly earnings, and hence, those source

deduction amounts should not have been included for the purposes of determining the wages owed to Mr. Gullackson."

#### (II) New Evidence

- <sup>26.</sup> Under the "new evidence" ground of appeal, Roughneck submits that evidence has become available which was not available at the time of the Determination, which has the potential for challenging or reversing the Delegate's findings on two important issues in the Determination. The first of these issues is the hire date of Gullackson. Roughneck contends that "Mr. Gullackson was hired in mid-January 2007, rather than January 1, 2007 as determined by the Delegate. Therefore, according to Roughneck, "the \$2,000.00 paid to Mr. Gullackson on January 15, 2007 was an advance for the wages Mr. Gullackson would earn for the final two weeks of January 2007." Therefore, Gullackson is not owed any further wages for the month of January 2007, according to Roughneck. Roughneck contends that its Director, McAdam, "who was working in a remote location in northern British Columbia" at the time of the Hearing and therefore unavailable to testify before the Delegate, is now available to give evidence in support of that assertion.
- <sup>27.</sup> Roughneck also contends that McAdam will testify "the parties agreed that Mr. Gullackson would be employed as an independent contractor and therefore responsible for making his own statutory remittances to the Receiver General." McAdam will also testify that "the parties also agreed that Mr. Gullackson would be paid a monthly wage of \$5000.00 gross" and it was only in April 2007, after Gullackson complained about his rate of pay that the parties came to the agreement that Gullackson would now be paid \$5,000 in net monthly pay and that Roughneck would be responsible to make statutory payroll remittances to Receiver General on Gullackson's behalf.
- <sup>28.</sup> Roughneck also wishes to call McAdam to provide evidence that throughout Gullackson's employment, the latter failed "to complete a majority of the job-related tasks that he had been hired to do". More specifically, Roughneck states "Mr. Gullackson failed to complete repairs and maintenance on numerous items of equipment used in the Appellant's business" and as a result, Roughneck was forced to have a third party carry out those repairs.
- <sup>29.</sup> Finally, Roughneck proposes to call McAdam to testify that during the "first part of the month of June 2007, Mr. Gullackson advised Mr. McAdam that he would not be available to work during the first part of June 2007" and the parties then agreed that Gullackson would only be paid one-half of his bi-monthly salary or \$1,250.00 for the period June 1, 2007 to June 15, 2007.
- <sup>30.</sup> Roughneck also proposes to call "new evidence" from Swanson, a former employee of Roughneck. Roughneck states Swanson "will provide evidence that he was present with Komish when she gave Gullackson \$2,000.00 in cash in or about late February 2007.

# THE DIRECTOR'S SUBMISSIONS

### (I) Error of Law

<sup>31.</sup> In response to the error of law ground of appeal, the Director submits that while Section 21 of the *Act* allows an employer to make statutory deductions from the gross earnings of an employee, the statutory deductions do form part of the wages for the employee and the deductions "are remitted to Canada

Customs and Revenue Agency ("CCRA") on the employee's behalf". In the case at hand, the Director submits that Roughneck did not provide evidence establishing that deductions relating to outstanding wages were remitted to CCRA (with the exception of two pay periods- April 30<sup>th</sup> and June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007). The Director reiterates, "the amount of the Determination is a gross amount and may be subject to the normal statutory deductions, minus what has already been deducted". The Director also submits "the amounts noted as gross wages on the two wage statements (which show \$3,905.00 bi-monthly each) were considered in the calculations as wages".

#### (II) New Evidence

- <sup>32.</sup> In response to the new evidence ground of appeal, the Director contends "that there is no new evidence that was not available at the time of the Hearing". The Director further states that Komish, who is the director of Roughneck, was specifically asked if she had all the necessary information to proceed with the Hearing and did not make a request for an adjournment or indicate that any of Roughneck's witnesses were not available.
- <sup>33.</sup> According to the Director, the employer "is re-arguing the evidence with respect to [Gullackson's] start date, work completed, and wage entitlement."
- <sup>34.</sup> The Director also contends that Roughneck is attempting to raise a new issue of "contractor vs employee, which is not consistent with the evidence of Ms. Komish in that [Gullackson] was initially hired as a friend with the wage rate being agreed upon later and the TD1 being signed on March 7, 2007."

### GULLACKSON'S SUBMISSIONS

- <sup>35.</sup> While Gullackson does not advance any technical or non-technical arguments pertaining to the issues raised by Roughneck in its Appeal, he states, "I do not know how the dollar figure of \$31,127.75 was made by the Director, but I am sure that if there is a mistake that it will be sorted out."
- <sup>36.</sup> Mr. Gullackson also complains about McAdam's lack of response to his Complaint before the Determination stating:

Since last year in August when I first appealed to the Labour Board to investigate this problem, it seemed they had no time of day to deal with this or thought I would 'GIVE UP' or I would just go away. I have followed every step of the process including when this was sent back and forth from provincial to Federal, to provincial jurisdiction. Mr. McAdam seemed to never be available and was always trying to delay the PROCESS but now that a DETERMINATION has been made he has hired council to submit NEW EVIDENCE for him to say the Director is wrong. I see that a dollar figure has been figured out at \$6,732.24. This is funny because under oath, (Roughneck), represented by Penny Komish who is a director and does the books, said that they owed me no money and now finally it seems that they are admitting that they do. Under oath she stated that I started work not January 1/07 but then later on admitted that I did (sic).

# ANALYSIS

### (I) Error of Law

<sup>37.</sup> Section 21(1) of the *Act* provides:

Except as permitted or required by this act or any other enactment of British Columbia or Canada, an employer must not, directly or indirectly, withhold, deduct or require payment of all or part of an employee's wages for any purpose.

- <sup>38.</sup> The most common deductions that employers in British Columbia (and in other provinces) make from an employee's wages include deductions for Income Tax under the *Income Tax Act*, Canada Pension Plan premiums under the *Canada Pension Plan Act*, employment insurance premiums under the *Employment Insurance Act*.
- <sup>39.</sup> In the case at hand, while I do not disagree with Roughneck that Section 21(1) of the *Act* permits an employer to make source deductions on account of federal tax and Canada Pension Plan and employment insurance premiums, Roughneck has adduced no evidence of having made any such deductions with respect to the wages owing to Gullackson. In the circumstances, I find that the Delegate correctly determined the wages Roughneck owed Gullackson on the basis of the gross monthly wages earned by Gullackson. I also find support for the Director's position in this regard in the decision of the Tribunal in *Re Ultra Clean Building Maintenance Ltd.*, [1997] B.C.E.S.T.D. No. 449. In *Ultra Clean*, in response to the employer's submission that remittances to Revenue Canada should be deducted from the total amount of wages determined to be owing to the employee, the Tribunal stated:

With respect to Ultra's contention that remittances to Revenue Canada be deducted from any wages owing to Pierce, I note that Ultra did not provide any evidence of payment to Revenue Canada, Ultra merely provided a copy of the invoice from Revenue Canada. Furthermore, the amount of wages determined by the delegate of the Director to be owing are the "gross wages" and are subject to statutory deductions. Those statutory deductions made on behalf of Pierce and proven to have been remitted to Revenue Canada form a part of the "gross wages" amount.

<sup>40.</sup> Accordingly, subject to my comments, direction and order herein on the quantum of wages determined by the Delegate to have been paid by Roughneck to Gullackson, I reject Roughneck's ground of appeal based on error of law. However, based on both my review of the wage statements and cheques evidencing payments of wages to Gullackson by Roughneck contained in the Record and the evidence of Gullackson at the Hearing that he was paid \$24,901.89 by Roughneck during his employment, I am not certain how the Delegate arrived at the figure of \$29,115 in his calculations for wages paid to Gullackson. I should point out that I am not questioning and do not disturb the Delegate's decisions to include in his calculations the \$1,000 cheque presented to Gullackson on August 2, 2007 which Gullackson negotiated later in August 2007 or the Delegate's decision to reject or not include the alleged \$2,000 cash payment to Gullackson in his calculations. I simply observe that my calculation of wages paid to Gullackson, based on the wage statements and cheques produced to me in the Record do not total the amount the Delegate arrived at. Therefore, I am referring this matter back to the Director for calculation of the quantum owed by Roughneck to Gullackson with specific reference to the wage statements and cheques contained in the Record. This may also affect the calculation of interest due to Gullackson under Section 88 of the Act.



#### (II) New Evidence

- <sup>41.</sup> In *Re Merilus Technologies Inc.*, B.C.E.S.T. #D171/03, the Tribunal set out four conditions that must be met before any "new evidence" will be considered. The appellant must establish that:
  - \* the evidence could not, with the exercise of due diligence, have been discovered and presented to the Director during the investigation or adjudication of the complaint and prior to the Determination being made;
  - \* the evidence must be relevant to a material issue arising from the complaint;
  - \* the evidence must be credible in the sense that it is reasonably capable of belief; and
  - \* the evidence must have high potential probative value in the sense that, if believed, it could on its own or when considered with other evidence, have led the Director to a different conclusion on the material issue.
- <sup>42.</sup> The requirements set out in *Re Merilus Technologies, supra,* are conjunctive and the onus lies on Roughneck to satisfy all four elements of the test.
- <sup>43.</sup> The sources of the "new evidence" that Roughneck proposes to adduce in its appeal are two witnesses that Roughneck proposes to call, namely, McAdam, who is coincidently a director of Roughneck and Swanson, who was a former employee of Roughneck. As I have already outlined under the heading "Submissions of Roughneck" the purported evidence of these witnesses, I will not reiterate it here.
- 44. In my review of Roughneck's submissions, I find that Roughneck has not discharged the onus placed on it to show that the proposed evidence of both McAdam and Swanson constitutes "new evidence" because Roughneck fails on the first element of the four-fold test in *Re Merilus Technologies*. In my view the proposed evidence of McAdam and Swanson is evidence that existed prior to the Hearing date and during the investigation. In the case of McAdam, the explanation that Roughneck offers for not calling him as a witness at the Hearing is a bare assertion that McAdam was "working in a remote location in Northern British Columbia and hence, was unavailable to testify before the Delegate". This bare assertion, in my view, does not discharge the burden placed on Roughneck to show that the evidence of McAdam could not, with the exercise of due diligence, have been discovered and presented to the Director during the investigation or adjudication of the Complaint and prior to the Determination being made. While I find it curious that Roughneck was not able to, prior to the Hearing or before the Determination was made, communicate with McAdam who is its director, what is fatal to Roughneck's case is its failure to explain what, if any, efforts it made to contact McAdam. Roughneck has certainly found McAdam now and states that he resides in Fort Nelson, British Columbia. If Fort Nelson is what Roughneck is referring to as "a remote location in northern British Columbia", I would be very surprised that there is no telecommunications to Fort Nelson. Query, when and how Roughneck was able to contact McAdam for the purpose of this appeal? In any event, there is no evidence of any efforts made on the part of Roughneck to contact McAdam wherever he may have been in "northern British Columbia" at the time of the Hearing.
- <sup>45.</sup> In the case of Swanson, there is no explanation from Roughneck whatsoever why he was not contacted to attend at the Hearing or his evidence not obtained prior to the Determination and submitted to the Delegate. As in the case of McAdam, it appears that Roughneck has been able to make contact with



Swanson who also resides in Fort Nelson. Query, how and when Roughneck obtained contact information for Swanson and when Roughneck contacted him first?

- <sup>46.</sup> In my view, if Roughneck had made any efforts to seek out both McAdam and Swanson before the Hearing with a view to calling them as witnesses but failed in contacting them, then the prudent and reasonable thing for Roughneck would have been to notify the Delegate of its failed efforts to find these witnesses and seek an adjournment of the Hearing to make further efforts to find them. Surely at some point McAdam, the director of Roughneck would have surfaced or made contact with Roughneck. For the reasons set out above, I reject Roughneck's ground of appeal based on "new evidence".
- <sup>47.</sup> Finally, I note that Roughneck, in its appeal, has sought to challenge, for the first time, the status of Gullackson as an employee stating that Gullackson was an independent contractor at the start of his relationship with Roughneck. Roughneck intends to support its position in this regard by referring to the evidence of McAdam. In my view, Roughneck cannot succeed on this issue for two reasons. First, I have rejected as "new evidence" the evidence of both proposed witnesses of Roughneck and therefore any evidence Roughneck wishes to rely upon from either of its proposed witnesses to challenge the status of Gullackson will not be considered by me.
- <sup>48.</sup> Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, it should be noted that an appeal to the Tribunal is not in the nature of a *de novo* hearing. If an employer wishes to challenge the status of the complainant under the *Act* that is, to argue that the complainant is an independent contractor and not an employee such a challenge should always be raised early on during the investigation or at the latest at the Hearing of the complaint. It is improper for Roughneck, at this stage, during the appeal, to pursue for the first time, such a challenge. This Tribunal is not empowered and does not conduct a hearing *de novo* on any issue, and particularly those not raised at the hearing of a complaint.
- <sup>49.</sup> It is clear to me that Roughneck's challenge of Gullackson's status to file a complaint under the *Act*, for the first time in its appeal, is motivated by an unfavourable ruling in the Determination as the status of Gullickson was not an issue for Roughneck during the Hearing.

# ORDER

<sup>50.</sup> Pursuant to Section 115 of the *Act*, I order that the Determination be confirmed in all respects except with respect to the quantum of wages owed to Gullackson. For the reasons stated earlier, I am referring this matter back to the Director for calculation of the quantum owed by Roughneck to Gullackson with the specific direction to the Director to consider the wage statements and cheques adduced by Roughneck at the Hearing.

Shafik Bhalloo Member Employment Standards Tribunal