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GUARD: Victim will 'never forget'

As she fought to get away during the 20-minute attack, Lonechild twice told her to "calm down or I will kill you."

Police dispatched by the 911 call arrested Lonechild, then 21, at the work site. He was later given an eight-year prison sentence in September 2008 after pleading guilty to sexual assault and unlawful confinement.

McGill said at the time of the attack, the woman had been living in Canada for three years. She had only been issued her security guard licence by Garda three weeks prior to the assault.



In a victim impact statement read by McGill, the woman told how the terrifying ordeal had drastically affected her life.

"I thought I was going to die," she wrote. "I couldn't sleep at night. I woke up in the middle of the night screaming."

"I had to see a psychologist for a year, because I was so scared and weak in the street by myself. Even though I continue my normal life now, I never forget what happened."

Garda's lawyer agreed the company should pay a \$5,000 fine and a \$750 victim fine surcharge in addition to contributing \$85,000 to the Alberta Construction Safety Association for the development of programs to assess work site safety and train security guards.

Details of the payment must still be worked out by the Alberta Construction Safety Association. The proposed penalty will then be presented to the judge March 31.

Defence lawyer Robbie Davison said Garda is a good corporate citizen with no prior OHS/A violations. The company had provided security to Shoppers for many years with no incidents, he said.

"One could say a young female should not work on night shifts alone," said Davidson. "But then you run into a conflict with other legislation and run into gender bias."

He said Garda has conducted worker safety assessments at similar sites without encountering any dangers.

Firm failed to protect worker

Faces \$90,000 fine after woman raped on job

DARYL SLADE
CALGARY HERALD

A national security company faces more than \$90,000 in penalties after admitting in a precedent-setting case that it failed to protect the safety of a female security guard who was raped

while working alone. Garda Canada Security Corp. pleaded guilty Tuesday to the charge under the province's Occupational Health and Safety Act. Crown prosecutor Alison McGill said it's the first such prosecution under the OHS/A in Alberta, and possibly all of Canada, where a company was charged after an employee working alone was the victim of a criminal offence. The case, said one workplace safety expert, exposes the need to prosecute more

cases and tighten legislation involving employees working alone. "Sometimes we have no choice but to work alone, but the more interesting aspect is the hazard assessment. We rarely get them done to the degree they should be done. We've had many similar situations where there has been no prosecution," said Ron Stewart, a workplace safety consultant for Pragmatic Solutions. Provincial legislation covering employees who work alone

was introduced in late 2000, months after the late-night murder of Tara McDonald at a southeast Subway restaurant. The regulations require companies to assess their workplaces and take measures to reduce risks or possible harm to workers. McGill told court the then 34-year-old victim, in only her second week of security work, was called by a supervisor on Oct. 31, 2006, to keep watch overnight at a Macleod Trail site where a Shoppers Drug

Mart was under construction after a co-worker called in sick. The company did not conduct a hazard assessment at the work site before work began, McGill said. "The work site was unsecured and there was no means to prevent unauthorized entry into the premises," she said. McGill said while it could be expected someone might unlawfully enter the work site, the security company could not have foreseen the vicious criminal attack that

occurred. Court heard the guard called her company's dispatch at about 3 a.m. to report hearing voices and banging noises on the work site. The call was transferred to 911 and while she was on the phone an intruder asked her to call a taxi. Moments after she ended the phone call, the intruder, later identified as Renno Lonechild, dragged her into a room and raped her. SEE GUARD, PAGE B5