

No evidence Sunrise Propane given OK for propane transfers before blast, Crown says

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Sunrise Propane Industrial Gases in Downsview exploded in August, 2008. (Charla Jones/)

An Ontario government lawyer says the director of Sunrise Propane seemed to know the company was acting illegally before a devastating blast in a north Toronto neighbourhood.

In closing arguments, the lawyer said Sunrise director Shay Ben-Moshe gave “troubling” and misleading statements to police following the explosion in August 2008.

Sunrise, Mr. Ben-Moshe and fellow director Valery Belahov face numerous provincial-offences charges in relation to the blast that killed an employee and rained damaging debris on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Mr. Ben-Moshe’s lawyer has blamed the incident on malfunctioning equipment due to a manufacturing error.

But the government says it was caused by a leak during a risky truck-to-truck gas transfer that Sunrise had been told to stop.

The Crown lawyer said today there is no evidence to support any suggestion by Mr. Ben-Moshe that he somehow had permission for the transfers.