

Minister Kaycee Madu  
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Minister Madu:

I am writing you to show our support for damage prevention legislation. In November 2018, Bill 211 was introduced - *The Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act 2018*. It was supported unanimously by the Resource Stewardship Committee in March 2019. This legislation would increase safety associated with damages to our underground infrastructure by addressing the need for a mandated comprehensive click-before-you-dig notification system in Alberta. Unfortunately, the provincial election in 2019 interrupted the process for this Bill to reach royal assent.

Alberta's underground infrastructure system delivers services that support our daily lives, including electricity, natural gas, clean water and sewage, along with phone, television and internet, which include the flow of data which supports Alberta's health and financial sectors. This web of wires, pipes, and fibre optic cables are the foundation for our quality of life and our standard of living.

Whether damage to underground infrastructure is the result of major construction or homeowners digging in their yard, there is a significant cost to Albertans. **Every day**, there are **13 damages** to underground infrastructure, 79% of these damages cause a disruption to services, costing Albertans almost **\$1million**. The majority of these damages are the result of not submitting a locate request. Damages can be avoided 99% of the time, if a locate request was made with Alberta One-Call.

Damage prevention legislation is a step in the right direction. I encourage you and your colleagues to take this simple step to increase safety and reduce costs for communities, citizens and businesses across Alberta. We support re-introducing *The Alberta Underground Infrastructure Notification System Consultation Act*.