



**Bob**  
**BAILEY**  
MPP • Sarnia-Lambton

For Immediate Release  
April 21, 2011

**MPP BAILEY'S 'ONTARIO ONE CALL ACT'  
PASSES SECOND READING WITH ALL-PARTY SUPPORT**

**Queen's Park**— Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey presented his private member's bill dubbed the "Call Before You Dig" Act to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for Second Reading Debate this afternoon. Bill 180, entitled the '*Ontario One Call Act, 2011*', if passed, will establish Ontario One Call Ltd. as a not-for-profit call centre, a single point-of-contact for all underground utility location services in Ontario

Today, MPP Bailey's legislation received all-party support during debate and passed unanimously through second reading. Originally presented to the Assembly on April 13, 2011 the next step on its legislative journey will be an in-depth review in one of the Assembly's standing committees before receiving a final third vote.

*The Ontario One Call Act* would make safety a priority by streamlining the current system; it would require all those operating underground infrastructure to participate in a single 24/7 call centre in the province to provide the 'locates' for underground infrastructure.

"I'm very happy that the other parties have seen the value in this important bill," said Bailey, following the vote. "This bill isn't just about streamlining a confusing system to make it easier to dig in your backyard; it's about preventing accidents and saving lives."

Failing to locate all underground and overhead utilities prior to construction has led to property damage totaling nearly \$33 million each year. This imposes a significant loss of revenue, as well as productivity and efficiency for businesses of all sizes.

Between 2008 and 2009, there were over 2500 pipeline strikes in Ontario, two of which resulted in fatalities. Last autumn, a Niagara Falls landscaping company was fined \$225,000 following a fatal explosion at the site of a residential home. The company, after failing to locate the underground utilities, accidentally punctured a propane line on the property. Tragically, a 58-year-old grandmother of three, who was home at the time, died in the explosion.

The Ministry of Labour found that the landscaping company had made no effort at all to discover the location of underground utilities or have their 'locates' marked. This grave

oversight left the workers on site with no knowledge of what was beneath the ground where they dug and resulted in the death of a Niagara Falls' woman.

“One life is too many,” said Bailey. “We need to stop dragging our feet on this issue – its just common sense. We need a system where anyone, anywhere in Ontario can find out what infrastructure exists under their property. With the growing complexity of our underground utilities, a mandatory One Call system will save money, and lives.”

*The Ontario One Call Act* has the full support of many of Ontario's construction and utility companies, as well as the current Ontario One Call agency – so far almost 40 municipalities, agencies and companies have written to our office expressing their support for Bill 180.

“A mandatory one-call system has four major benefits,” said Paul Rietdyk, vice president of distribution operations for Union Gas. “Most importantly, it reduces risk and will save lives, it's more cost-effective than a voluntary system, its business friendly in that it will improve productivity for excavators and it works effectively. For instance, in the U.S., mandatory one call systems have been successfully implemented in all 50 jurisdictions – and in a four-year period damages have dropped by 70%.”

A video of today's press conference and debate have been uploaded online and are located at <http://www.bobbaileympp.com/video-releases.html>

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