



Effective and Consistent Safe-digging Legislation across Canada Would Improve Public, Worker, and Community Safety

Calgary, August 1, 2012 – Canadians will benefit from improved safe digging legislation says the Canadian Common Ground Alliance.

Digging without first knowing the location of underground infrastructure, such as natural gas lines, oil pipelines, electricity, cable and telecommunications wires, is the leading cause of damage to buried utilities.

“Whether digging and excavating for road work, new home or business construction, or a backyard project such as a fence or a deck, it is absolutely critical to identify, locate, and mark buried utilities before the digging takes place,” said Mike Sullivan, Chair of the [Canadian Common Ground Alliance](#). “At the end of the day, safe digging practices allow excavation and construction projects to proceed efficiently and safely.”

The Canadian Common Ground Alliance says that effective and consistent legislation and regulation across Canada would go a long way towards the adoption of safer digging practices and greater protection of Canada’s vast underground infrastructure. A new [white paper](#) released by the organization outlines key elements that should be included in such legislation and regulation.

“Today, there is an inconsistent patch-work of municipal, provincial, and federal legislation and regulation governing excavation across Canada,” continued Sullivan. “Having clear and consistent requirements and legislation, as outlined in the CCGA’s white paper, would reduce damages, enhance productivity in construction, and most importantly, improve public, worker, and community safety”.

The Canadian Common Ground Alliance is the voice of Canada’s Regional Partner CGAs who include natural gas, oil, electric, and telecommunications owners and operators and the digging community. The organization is dedicated to reducing damages to underground infrastructure – ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices.

For more information:

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