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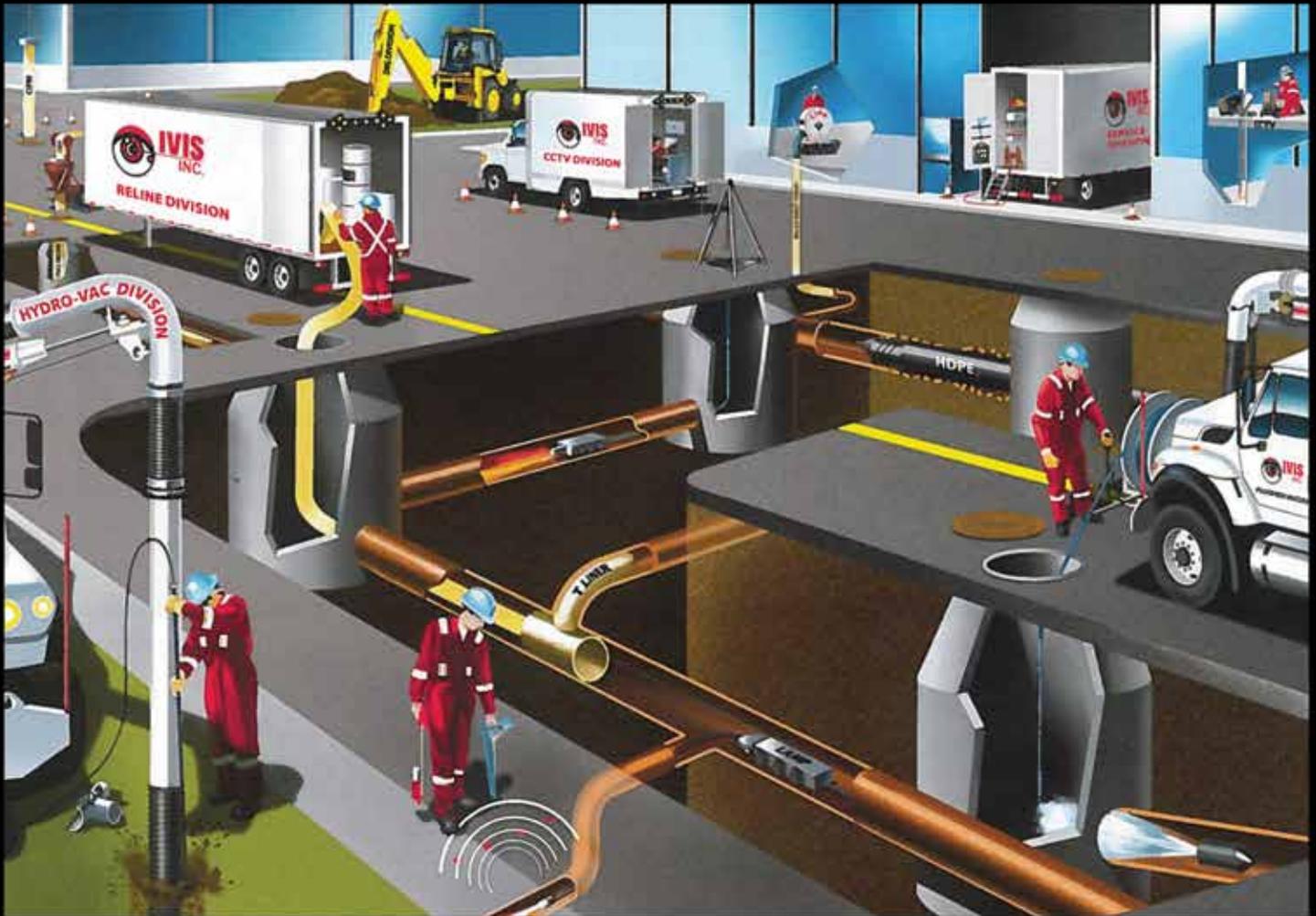
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CONTENTS

- 4** Message from CAPULC President, Jamie Andersen
- 6** Message from the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
- 8** Who We Are
- 10** CAPULC 2020 Sponsor Acknowledgement
- 11** CAPULC Committees
- 12** The 2020 CAPULC AGM
- 16** From the Office of CAPULC
- 19** Upcoming Events
- 20** Improve your GPR survey with built-in visualization
- 23** The Damage Prevention Process in Alberta – A unified force, by the ABCGA
- 24** Introducing the Canadian Certified Locator program
- 26** Social Media – Not a Passing Fad, by the ATLCGA
- 26** Launch of the guidelines for excavation work done near underground Infrastructures, by the QCGA
- 27** Standing Committee on Finance – Ground Disturbance Recommendation, by the BCCGA
- 28** The ORCGA Damage Prevention Training Program (DPT) Resurfaces, by the ORCGA
- 29** Where's the line?
- 30** The ORCGA DIRT Report
- 32** Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance breakfast stresses line locates
- 33** The CCGA Damage Prevention Symposium goes virtual!
- 34** CAPULC 2020 Board of Directors and Staff

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

Alberta One Call	7	LN Land Development Technologies.....	IBC
Canadian Certified Locator.....	25	Locate Management Institute	25
Cansel.....	15	Locate Management Ltd.....	9
D.A. Hassall Inspection Services Ltd.....	21	Motion Industries (Canada) Inc.	27
Dan The Stickman Ltd.	11	National Locators.....	13
First Alert Locating Ltd.	7	Safelocate Solutions.....	13
Ivis Construction Inc.....	IFC	Sensors & Software Inc.	21
Lawson Consulting & Surveying Ltd.	24	Vivax Canada Inc. / Linestar	OBC

Message from the president of CAPULC

JAMIE ANDERSEN



Long-time member, first-time President

I have worked in the locating industry alongside my husband since 1999. As CEO and co-owner of our own locating business, I have a wide perspective on the locating industry and ground disturbance, and I want to contribute my knowledge to help fulfil CAPULC's endeavours. I am proud to acknowledge that I am one of the few founding members of CAPULC, I have been a supporting member since its inception in April 2002, and I have served on the Board of Directors in many capacities over the past 18 years. My goal, as I move into this new and challenging position as President, is to continue working with what CAPULC has built and, with the help of the Board members, enhance it where possible.

I would like to acknowledge the CAPULC Board for their patience, guidance, and support as I learn the ropes. I would also like to personally acknowledge our former President, Randy Palaniuk, for his many years of service, dedication, and commitment to the Association and the industry. He has been extremely helpful walking me through all the important aspects of the organization to ensure we persevere and continue to become a strong presence in the underground damage prevention industry. I have worked closely over the past few months with CAPULC's new administrator, Wendy Gibbons, who has been wonderful to work with and has assisted in making my transition a smooth one.

We have an experienced group of members serving on our Board, each with years of ex-

pertise giving us many unique perspectives on our industry. Our broad range of members who serve on many committees, associations, and industry-related boards gives us an exceptional range of opinions and ideas that are fine-tuned to heighten our damage-prevention message. I encourage you to bring these ideas forth. We want you, as a member, to get involved in your association.

Throughout the history of CAPULC, there have been many challenges and successes, although nothing like the challenges that 2020 has brought to our members. We are determined to keep moving forward and focus on the future. Our mandate is to promote and align competency and training standards for the locating profession. We are focused on establishing standards and advancing training initiatives in order to remain relevant and valuable to our membership, adapt to market conditions, and embrace innovation that best support our members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contribution to The Locator magazine. The feedback that we have received on these articles has been positive, and we hope you continue to find the magazine's content current, useful, and interesting. Please feel free to send any ideas for future articles to us.

I am excited to serve as your President and aspire to work with the Board in bringing our members and our industry success, safety, and strength. ●

Membre depuis longtemps, présidente pour la première fois

Depuis 1999, je travaille dans le domaine de la localisation avec mon mari. En tant que PDG et copropriétaire de notre propre entreprise de localisation, j'ai une vue d'ensemble étendue de l'industrie de la localisation et du remuement du sol. Je souhaite mettre mes connaissances au service des projets et activités de la CAPULC. Je suis fière de dire que je suis l'un des rares membres fondateurs de la CAPULC, que je suis membre de soutien depuis sa création en avril 2002 et que j'ai occupé de nombreuses fonctions au conseil d'administration au cours des 18 dernières années. Mon objectif, alors que j'accède pour la première fois au poste stimulant de présidente, c'est de continuer à travailler avec ce que la CAPULC a édifié et, avec l'aide des membres du conseil d'administration, de l'améliorer autant que possible.

Je tiens à remercier le conseil d'administration de l'Association pour sa patience, ses conseils et son soutien alors que je me familiarise avec les rouages du poste. J'aimerais également remercier notre ancien président, Randy Palaniuk, pour ses nombreuses années de service, son dévouement et son engagement envers l'Association et l'industrie de la localisation. Il m'a beaucoup aidé à prendre connaissance de tous les volets et aspects importants de notre association, afin que nous continuions à persévérer et à être très présents dans notre secteur d'activité. Au cours des derniers mois, j'ai travaillé en étroite collaboration avec la nouvelle administratrice du CAPULC, Wendy Gibbons, une collaboratrice hors pair avec qui j'ai le plaisir de travailler et qui m'aide à réaliser une transition en douceur.

L'équipe du CA se compose de membres compétents, chacun comptant plusieurs années d'expertise et contribuant des perspectives variées quant à notre industrie. De plus,

le grand nombre de membres qui sont actifs dans de nombreux comités, associations et conseils d'administration liés à notre industrie nous procure un éventail exceptionnel d'idées et d'opinions qui se sont affinées au fil des ans et qui renforcent notre objectif de prévenir les dommages. Je vous encourage à nous faire part de vos idées et opinions. Nous souhaitons que vous, en tant que membre, vous investissiez dans votre association.

L'histoire de la CAPULC est jalonnée de nombreux défis à relever et de succès à célébrer, bien que rien ne ressemble aux défis que nos membres ont eu à relever et continuent de relever en 2020. Nous sommes décidés à continuer à aller de l'avant et à garder notre regard centré sur l'avenir. La CAPULC s'est donnée pour mission de promouvoir et d'harmoniser les normes de compétence et de formation de la profession de localisateur. Nous nous concentrons sur l'établissement de normes et le développement d'activités de formation, afin de demeurer pertinents et utiles à nos membres, de nous adapter aux conditions du marché et de favoriser et encourager les innovations qui appuient le mieux les intérêts de nos membres.

Je voudrais également profiter de cette occasion pour remercier tous ceux et celles qui ont contribué à *The Locator*, notre revue nationale. Les commentaires que nous avons reçus sur les articles qu'il contient ont été positifs et nous espérons que vous continuerez à en trouver le contenu à la fois actuel, pertinent et intéressant. N'hésitez pas à nous faire part de vos idées concernant de futurs articles.

Je suis enthousiaste à l'idée d'être présidente de l'Association et j'aspire à travailler avec le conseil d'administration en vue d'apporter succès, sécurité et solidarité à nos membres et à l'ensemble de notre industrie. ●



Message from the Honourable **CATHERINE MCKENNA** Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

It is an understatement to say 2020 has been a challenging year, so I welcome the opportunity to touch base with key stakeholders in the field of rebuilding, renewing, and expanding Canada's vital public infrastructure.

Infrastructure impacts Canadians every day, and the work you do at the Canadian Association of Pipeline Utility Locating Contractors plays a vital role. You are the folks who find water mains, gas lines, and other utilities before construction digging can even begin. Your association and members provide leadership, best practices, and promote safety in communities across the country. You ensure the safety of the foundations we build on.

So many construction projects depend on the work of the pipeline and utility locating industry, whether times are good or challenging. Today we all need to work together so we can build up and build

back better. Investments in infrastructure will help stabilize local economies, help communities become more resilient, and create good jobs from coast to coast.

The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing all of us to up our game. The Government of Canada has responded with changes to our Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program that will provide faster approval for projects and introduce a temporary new funding stream with a bigger federal cost share to support the COVID-19 response and economic recovery.

Our government's historic, \$180-billion-plus Investing in Canada plan is about building a more prosperous, more resilient, and more sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

The Plan supports projects within five streams that provinces and territories identified as key to the success and sustainability of local communities: public

transit; green infrastructure; social infrastructure; trade and transportation; and rural and northern communities' infrastructure. In August, we made the Plan more flexible and responsive to our partners' needs by creating a new, more generous COVID-19 Resilience funding stream worth up to \$3.3 billion.

Under the Plan, our government has already committed over \$65 billion and invested in thousands of projects, most of which are either underway or completed. And the new COVID-19 Resilience stream will further benefit Canadians by investing in more pandemic-resilient infrastructure projects, such as retrofitting schools to allow kids to return to class safely, upgrading hospitals and long-term care homes to deal with social distancing requirements, or building new parks, cycling, and walking paths.

Our government continues to work closely with provincial, territorial, municipal, Indigenous, and other partners and stakeholders to make sure we're moving forward on long-term objectives that will improve every Canadians' quality of life — from better public transit and high-speed broadband to affordable housing and clean water.

Canada's Investing in Canada plan invests in thousands of projects, creates jobs across the country, and builds stronger communities. Now more than ever, we need to invest in our communities, harness the innovations that are emerging, and work with organizations like yours to build a stronger, cleaner, healthier, and more connected country for the future. ●





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WHO WE ARE



With each year, our membership grows as we make great strides to “provide leadership, promote safety, and work to enhance the value and reputation of the underground facility locating industry in Canada”.

By establishing the highest possible standards for the industry, our objective is to present a generation of qualified and competent locating technicians, trained to excel in their field. Standardization and compliance to the rules and regulations will benefit everyone in the underground pipeline and utility locating industry.

Together we can encourage the locate industry and the ground disturbance community to meet and exceed safety expectations, perform each job with due diligence, and govern the application of

rules and regulations as they pertain to the industry.

OUR MISSION

As contractors, we have a vested interest in shaping our future, and we all have the desire to be proactive in the development of standards for the locating industry in Canada.

As members of CAPULC, we have a vested interest in directing the development of standards for the locating industry in Canada through education and providing industry-specific information to our members.

As a group, we agree that the development of Canadian standards, the guidelines for evaluating competencies and qualifications required, should be determined by those of us with the knowledge and experience involved in the locating industry.

CAPULC endeavours to:

- Define, establish, and preserve the identity and the common interests of the underground facility locating industry.
- Educate and promote better relations between members and governmental agencies, other associations, contractors, professional engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, utility companies, one-call centers, the public, and the underground facility locating industry.
- Develop standards for the locating industry in Canada.
- Promote the practical application of

knowledge related to the underground facility locating industry through education and ensure this education process is available to our members.

- Collect and disseminate information relative to the business in which Association members are engaged.
- Promote ethical practices among underground facility locators and the general public.
- Encourage safety in the conduct of work.
- Represent the common interest of Association members.
- Encourage the education of Association members in the pursuit of underground facility locating in accordance with sound business principles.

As a member of CAPULC, you will receive numerous benefits:

- Promote industry interests and voice concerns as a group.
- Recognition as a professional locate company.
- Networking with peers and industry suppliers.
- Representation at shows, conferences, and seminars.
- Involvement in special events and AGM.
- Website acknowledgement and promotion.
- Member savings through the CAPULC Marketplace.



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By establishing the highest possible standards for the industry, our objective is to present a generation of qualified and competent locating technicians, trained to excel in their field.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

CAPULC's Membership is open to anyone interested in the line locating and ground disturbance industry. We encourage the input of gas and oil companies, utility owners, industry training facilities, locating companies, as well as the general public, and would highly recommend your involvement at any level with CAPULC. Regardless of your field of work or level of expertise in the line locating and ground disturbance industry, CAPULC is an organization with your interest and safety in mind. Read the following membership requirements and discover how easily you can become a member of this vastly diverse and knowledgeable organization, which is CAPULC.

REGULAR MEMBER

Regular Members are companies or partnerships that provide locating services in Canada. Regular Members must meet the following conditions and requirements for admission as Members of the Association:

- Regular Members must be corporations or partnerships incorporated in any jurisdiction in Canada;
- Regular Members must pay an annual membership fee as established at each Annual General Meeting; and
- Regular Members must at all times adhere to the standards developed, published, and promulgated by the Society.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Associate Members are companies or

partnerships that serve as suppliers for the locating industry. Associate Members must meet the following conditions and requirements for admission as Members of the Society:

- Associate Members must be corporations or partnerships incorporated or formed in any jurisdiction in Canada;
- Associate Members must operate a business which supplies goods or services to the: (i) locating industry, (ii) buried facility owners/operators that purchase locating services, (iii) training organizations, (iv) one-call centers, or (v) buried facility damage prevention organizations;
- Associate Members must pay an annual membership fee as established at each Annual General Meeting; and
- Associate Members must at all times adhere to the standards developed, published, and promulgated by the Society.

AFFILIATE MEMBER

Affiliate Members are corporations, partnerships, organizations, and sister associations that endorse and support the principals of CAPULC. Affiliate Members must meet the following conditions and requirements for admission as Members of the Society:

- Affiliate Members must be corporations, partnerships, organizations, or associations incorporated or formed in any jurisdiction in Canada or individuals resident in Canada;

- Affiliate Members must acknowledge and endorse the purposes and objects of the Society;
- Affiliate Members must pay an annual membership fee as established at each Annual General Meeting; and
- Affiliate Members must at all times adhere to the standards developed, published, and promulgated by the Society.

For more information on becoming a member of CAPULC, please contact our office at:

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While CAPULC is volunteer-driven, we do require financial resources to meet our objectives. Resources collected from sponsorships are used to support projects such as the Underground Facility Locator (UFL) Designated Occupation Application, UFL Training Standards, National Locate Rodeo, conferences and trade-shows, CAPULC AGM, the Locator magazine, general meetings, and various committees. If your company would like to sponsor CAPULC's efforts, please download the Sponsorship Level Benefits and CAPULC Sponsorship Forms below.

For more information on how to become a sponsor, please visit www.capulc.ca/page-1765436
or call the CAPULC office at 1-888-492-8279.

CAPULC Committees

If you are interested in sitting on a CAPULC Committee, please visit www.capulc.ca/Committees.

CAPULC's application is currently on standby with Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training for Occupational Designation for Underground Facility Locators (UFL). Alberta is presently re-vamping their application process which allows us to revisit our application and meet their suggested requirements to be accepted under the new application process. One of the largest criteria is to prove we have "industry" support. We would like to relaunch our Competency Task Force to establish

formal general "Locating Standards". By achieving designations such as this, we hope to reach our goal to establish locating as an accredited career path and establish an effective standard for locates to be performed within any industry. We are hoping to attract new hires to the locating industry.

GOVERNANCE

To facilitate a comprehensive review of the Association's current governance structure in a way that identifies gaps and highlights areas of improvement for the purpose of providing a defined governance structure and sustainable presence in each province in Canada.

STRATEGIC NETWORKS

To improve CAPULC's presence in the existing network of industry related organizations in a way that enhances the association's voice for the purpose of establishing CAPULC as a leader in the pipeline and utility locating industry.

OUTREACH

To enhance communications with members, non-members and stakeholder groups in a way that increases visibility

of the association for the purpose of increasing awareness about association activities and initiatives.

SUSTAINABILITY

To develop a sustainable financial framework in a way that ensures CAPULC has the capacity to meet both short and long-term goals for the purpose of enhancing member benefits and maintaining growth in the membership base.

RECRUITMENT & SERVICES

To market association benefits and to develop new services in a way that will proactively address the needs of the industry for the purpose of establishing

CAPULC as the preferred choice for professional membership.

ADVOCACY

To identify, interpret, and react to legislative and industry changes in a way that is relevant and timely to members for the purpose of maintaining the association's position as a leader in the pipeline and locating industry.

EDUCATION

To assist in the promotion and development of education programs in a way that enhances the association's relevance and value to the industry for the purpose of establishing the association as a proactive leader in program development. ●

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The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the members of CAPULC

The CAPULC Board had been closely monitoring the guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Public Health Agency of Canada with regards to face-to-face meetings, gatherings, and travel due to the COVID-19 situation. The safety and wellness of our members and sponsors is our top priority.

In our efforts to help contribute to flattening the curve, the leadership team made the very difficult, but appropriate, decision to cancel the Safety Conference and Trade Show portion of this year's 2020 event. We thank our event sponsors that came forth to contribute to the event and look forward to your continued support in 2021.

To keep in line with our bylaws the membership's annual general meeting took place as scheduled on April 24, 2020 but in a virtual environment. The event had originally been planned to take place at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Red Deer, AB with a lineup of speakers including Mona Bartsoff, Corporate Communications Advisor and CAPULC's Gold Sponsor, along with Dan Thayer, Manager of Corporate Health and Safety with Fortis Alberta, Michelle Tetreault, Executive Director of Alberta Common Ground Alliance (ABCGA), Kassi Zaba, Member Services, Alberta One-Call Corporation, and guest speaker Jenan Nasserdeen, Founder of Catalyst Training Services speaking on a critical issue, "Mental Health in the Workplace: Why it Matters!"

Although our agenda was disrupted by the coronavirus, the virtual meeting went on successfully without a hitch. We had member representation from all over the province of Alberta as well as Ontario, Saskatchewan, and British Colum-

bia. The Board of Directors is excited for the upcoming year. We have a few new members that came on board as directors voted in by the membership. Please take a look at their profiles that can be found on the CAPULC website at www.capulc.ca.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting is slated for Thursday, April 22, 2021. It has been tentatively booked at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Red Deer, AB. However, because of the continual spread of COVID-19 and the delay of the vaccine, to keep everyone safe and healthy, we are preparing for a virtual meeting that will include guest speakers and informational sessions. More information will be posted on our website under Events. Stay tuned!

CAPULC 2020 AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Canadian Association of Pipeline and Utility Locating Contractors provides leadership, promotes safety, and works to enhance the value and reputation of the underground facility locating industry in Canada

Before I begin, I would like to personally thank each one of our members for your continued membership and welcome our new members to CAPULC. I would also like to recognize our sponsors for your continued support of our Association. Without the support from our members and our sponsors, none of our efforts would be possible.

This has been another exciting and successful year for our Association. We have seen some changes over the year, and I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their ongoing dedication in representing CAPULC. We went through

an administration change in November 2019 and welcomed Wendy Gibbons to our team. I would like to thank her for her efforts in keeping business flowing.

The CAPULC website has been seeing some updating to showcase our videos and pictures from past events. Please visit it and promote CAPULC amongst your colleagues and business associates. Word of mouth is a great promotional tool to help our association grow to seek more opportunities. I would like to remind all our Regular members you can add up to four (4) additional team members to your bundle membership. I encourage all members to login into your member profile to keep your information current and updated to ensure you are receiving regular communication from CAPULC. Please include your service areas and services you provide to your profile, so your business and contact information are listed under the Locate a Locator section on the website.

Do not forget to peruse the Members Only section where you will find all our meeting minutes and presentations under Association Business. Please continue to visit the CAPULC Marketplace to find special member discounts on products from various suppliers, the list has grown over the past few years and will continue to grow. Also, members can post a job ad on our Careers Page that is advertised on our Home Page. If you have any questions on how to access any of this information, please email the CAPULC office at admin@capulc.ca or call 1-888-492-8279.

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting, Safety Conference, and inaugural Locate Rodeo was hosted on April 17 and 18; both were a big success. Special thanks go

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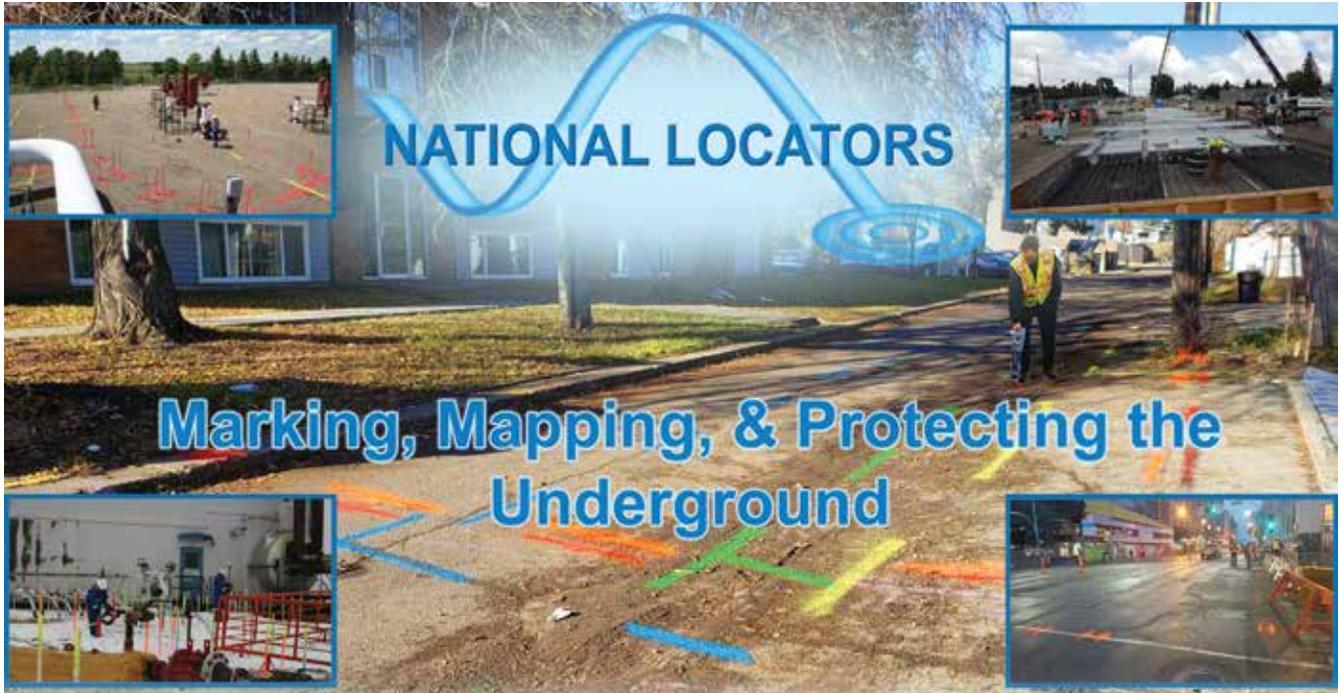


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to our sponsors and exhibitors. I appreciate your dedication and the time and resources you shared with us. A great big THANK YOU to the Locate Rodeo Committee for doing an outstanding job. I appreciate everyone's time and effort in planning and organizing our first rodeo event. We had great attendance from a diverse group of people in the industry throughout Canada. The Rodeo was a chance for everyone to showcase their knowledge and skills, have a good time and learn a little something. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated. I am already looking forward to our next one!

The Locator magazine was released in January 2020, a bit delayed because of our recent administrative transition. I would like to thank everyone for their contributions to The Locator, your submissions are respected and greatly appreciated. We plan to release next year's issue in October 2020 keeping this timeline in the future. This annual publication is the first magazine in Western Canada geared towards line locating and ground disturbance. The annual publication focuses on CAPULC initiatives, industry best practices, new legislation, and damage-prevention topics. CAPULC welcomes all suggestions for topics and invites everyone to submit papers for possible inclusion into future magazine editions. We aim to give readers the answers and information they need with each issue, and we hope you enjoy reading them.

This past year, I continued to represent our Association as a member of the Board of Directors on the Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) and the Alberta Common Ground Alliance (ABCGA). I actively participated in those Association Director's meetings on a regular basis ensuring CAPULC's members voices were heard.

CAPULC continues to work towards the Underground Facility Locator: Designated

Do not forget to peruse the Members Only section where you will find all our meeting minutes and presentations under Association Business. Please continue to visit the CAPULC Marketplace to find special member discounts on products from various suppliers, the list has grown over the past few years and will continue to grow.

ated Occupation Application. Our efforts to resubmit a new application for recognition for UFL's in Alberta has been delayed. We have been working with Michelle Tetreault, Executive Director with the ABCGA and with like-minded and similar goals, the opportunities and benefits of working collaboratively would bring the industry together. A Competency Task Force Committee is planned to be in place this coming year and will be reaching out to all members to join this initiative. Please contact admin@capulc.ca if you are interested in becoming a part of this important committee.

CAPULC is responsible for establishing and sanctioning the minimum health, safety, and environmental protection standards that govern the locating industry and its members business operations. As part of these responsibilities, CAPULC has continued to endorse Locate Management's Underground Facility Locator (UFL) certificate program. The program adheres to the CAPULC's Underground Facility Locator (UFL) Competency Cycle which can be found online by downloading our Code of Ethics Form. Just a reminder, the CAPULC MEMBERSHIP OATH must be signed each year upon your membership renewal and sent to admin@capulc.ca.

We have faced many challenges this year, but with these challenges come an opportunity to celebrate our successes as we continue to thrive with over 100 members. While our Association continues to grow during a volatile economy, our industry is not exempt during these unsettling times and our members are

being impacted at all levels. We understand the challenges related to the impact of COVID-19. Although a lot of time and planning went into the 2020 Safety Conference and Trade Show, having to redesign our AGM to demonstrate social distancing to help stop the spread of this virus yet keep in line with our bylaws allows us to gather. The safety and wellness of our members and sponsors is our top priority.

Hosting our first National Locate Rodeo at our 2019 AGM and Safety Conference was extremely exciting. CAPULC is continuing our work as the Canadian voice of the industry and we look forward to continuing to work towards the Underground Facility Locator: Designated Occupation Application. It is important that we continually receive recognition for our industry and our profession.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to extend our appreciation to our members who continue to support our Association and our goals. Our members are valued, and we look forward to serving you again this upcoming membership year. Together we will continue to promote our Association and the Board will continue to be your voice on important legislation and changes that affects the locating industry and the damage prevention community.

We are all in this together. Take care. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Randy Palaniuk

2020 President CAPULC ●



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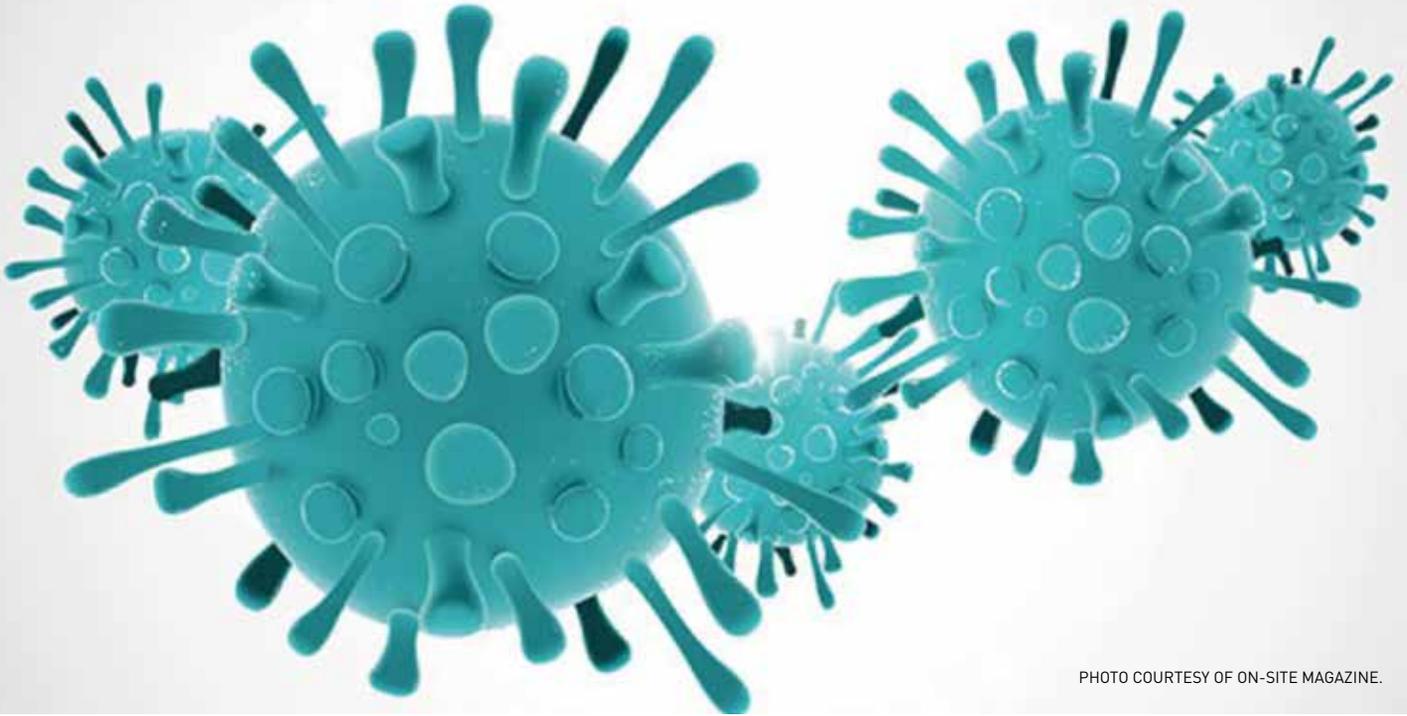


PHOTO COURTESY OF ON-SITE MAGAZINE.

The pandemic that changed LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

By Wendy Gibbons, Administrator, CAPULC

According to Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC), the COVID-19 outbreak began in a seafood and poultry market in Wuhan, a city of 11 million in central China. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 viral disease a pandemic. By the middle of May, the virus had spread to 188 countries including Canada. Patty Hajdu, Canada's Minister of Health looked to Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, for recommendations on how to flatten the curve and stem the spread of the coronavirus. The downfall in oil prices, rail blockades, and protests started the downward slope of Canada's economy. The unpredictability of the coronavirus pandemic and the closing of all non-

essential businesses brought it to a halt, and it brought Canada to the brink of a recession. With globalization causing the world to seem small, everyone was glued to their source of technology for developing updates from Canadian and provincial health authorities. March and April especially proved to be challenging for all Canadians during these unprecedented times causing uncertainty of the future. Stay at home, work from home, job loss, CERB, school closures, quarantine, isolation, restricted services, essential travel only, and social distancing represent only a few terms we have come to realize have influenced a "new norm" of living. The repercussions resulting from these restrictions not only placed stress on the economy, but it changed the home life of all.

Along with other industry groups, the Canadian Construction Association advocates for construction to continue. Despite shutdowns in other significant segments of the economy, construction sites in most provinces remained open during the pandemic. Mary Van Buren, the CCA's President said in a release, "Our position is that compliant sites should be open and those that cannot consistently comply with measures and guidelines of public health authorities should shut down." The industry leader is staying proactive ensuring the construction industry is aware of the risks involved. On March 27, they released the COVID-19 – Standardized Protocols for All Canadian Construction Sites to help contractors ensure sites remain protected while dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The organization continues to update the document of any emerging risks.

As each provincial health authority established its timeline by monitoring the spread and adjusting its course while following the guidelines outlined by the chief medical officer of health, on May 14 Stage 1 was launched in Alberta. According to Alberta Health Services' website, Stage 1 allowed some businesses to resume operations starting May 14

with enhanced infection prevention and controls in place. The cities of Calgary and Brooks reopened more gradually due to higher case numbers and fully entered Stage 1 as of June 1. Stage 2 starting on June 12, allowed the businesses that were held back in Stage 1 to reopen with public health guidelines in place. Business operators and sports and recreation services were given the go-ahead to reopen "if they are ready" by ensuring the general guidance for work-

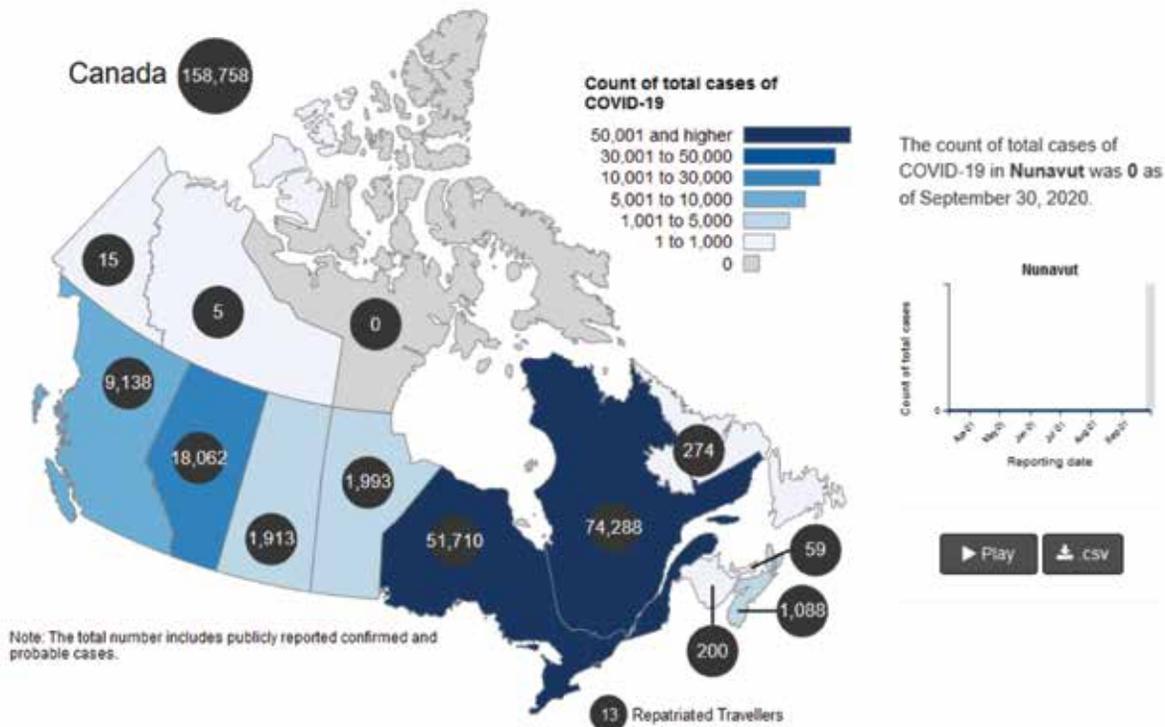
places is met. The sector-specific guidance documents implement measures to comply with public health requirements. Social gatherings and "life as we knew it" is to be suspended until Alberta launches its Stage 3 strategy, or until a vaccine is found. This will open all workplaces and public gathering restrictions will be relaxed, including the freedom to travel outside of Canada. To stay updated, more information can be found at www.alberta.ca.

Current situation

Count of total cases of COVID-19 in Canada as of September 30, 2020

Last data update 2020-09-30 19:00 EDT

Hover over provinces and territories to see total cases, active cases, recovered cases, number of people tested or deaths in Canada over time. Click the play button to animate the map.



This infographic gives the daily statistics of the rate or count of total cases, people tested, active cases, total cases, deaths and cases recovered from COVID-19 in Canada. This information is based on data from our provincial and territorial partners. It is current as of September 30, 2020, 7 pm EDT. For the most up to date data for any province, territory, or city, please visit their web site.

To stay up to date on the current outbreak in Canada go to www.canada.ca/en/publichealth/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html#a1.

On August 1, 2020, Calgary's Face Coverings Bylaw became active. The bylaw enforces that masks be mandatory in indoor public spaces and the City of Calgary's facilities and public vehicles. Physical distancing is encouraged and when it cannot be maintained masks must be worn. Energy Safety Canada (ESC) is a not-for-profit organization that was launched in October 2017 with the merger of Enform Canada and the Oil Sands Safety Association. It is recognized as the nation's oil and gas safety association. ESC strictly adheres to provincial and federal guidelines to develop a secure environment to keep everyone safe and healthy while working within industry to "drive safe work performance." On July 28, they released the following update, "Recognizing that each local jurisdiction has different requirements, ESC is closely following municipal recommendations for each location we operate." This requires all students, staff, contractors, and visitors must adhere to these safety measures.

With warmer weather temperatures approaching and those that are staying home due to the restrictions in place, homeowners are finding time to start their outdoor projects. The ground disturbance industry is busy meeting these demands. Alberta One-Call confirmed they had seen a surge in locate requests from homeowners. In a June 22, 2020 report they said, "Locate vendors are experiencing very high call volumes. In some parts of the province, we have seen a significant increase in locate requests. Spring training classes to bring

on new locators were cancelled. With the economy slowly opening, we are working with the locate vendors to hold training sessions in the near future. AOC's protocol is to tell people the minimum response time is three business days, but due to the increase in calls, we are averaging around 10 business days. Locate delays will continue for the upcoming weeks. Currently, our locate vendors will send out automated emails confirming the locate and stating any delays." To keep the community safe, they stressed, "Please do not start your digging project before you get your locates. If you contact an underground utility while digging, it can cause service outages to your home and neighbourhood and can cause serious injury. If you do not get your locates within 10 days of placing your request, please contact info@albertaonecall.com and we will investigate and escalate on your behalf." To contribute to preventing the spread of the novel virus during these busy times, locators are safeguarding homeowners and themselves by following the protocols set by health officials. When they go to sites to locate and mark buried utilities, they wear the appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) and maintain social distancing to alleviate the added stressors caused by COVID-19.

Amidst all the stress and confusion brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the underground pipeline and utility locating industry has not been exempt. Like many other professions, it has not

only been combating the added stressors placed on the home front but also in the workplace by trying to keep up with increased demands of protecting the vast web of underground infrastructure. Their goal is to prevent a catastrophe of outages and injuries that could take place if hit. With tight deadlines brought on by increased client demands, this is no easy task. The once-daily routines in the life of a locator no longer exist. Extra precautionary steps to combat illness are to be followed. Families are forced to stretch their income while once-working parents stay home with children full time because of school and daycare closures. According to Statistics Canada, the total number of jobs lost during the pandemic crisis is more than three million. This rapid decline of jobs available due to the pandemic is unprecedented. One key component of CAP-ULC's objectives is to promote safety. We strive to educate and promote better relations between members and government agencies, other associations, contractors, professional engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, utility companies, one-call centers, the public, and the underground facility locating industry.

Several organizations have posted free webinars and links to provide information to help families and individuals stay mentally and physically healthy during these unprecedented times. Keep yourself and your family healthy. We have brought together an essential list of links that might be of assistance. ●

HELPFUL HEALTHFUL LINKS

AIHA, Healthier Workplaces | A Healthier World

Guidance Document, Focus on Construction Health: COVID-19
https://aiha-assets.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/AIHA/resources/Guidance-Documents/Focus-on-Construction-Health-COVID-19_AIHAGuidanceDocument.pdf

Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association (AMHSA)

<https://www.amhsa.net/resources/covid-19-updates/>

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)

<https://www.ccohs.ca>

Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction

<https://www.ccsa.ca/addictions-treatment-helplines-canada>

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

<https://chamber.ca/programs-services/>

Canadian Construction Association (CCA)

Financial Assistance

Navigating Financial Assistance programs announced by federal and provincial governments

<https://www.cca-acc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Financial-Assistance-v1.pdf>

Canadian Mental Health Association

<https://cmha.ca/document-category/mental-health>

Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE)

Tactics for Maintaining Mental Fitness During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Free Weekly Webinar Series!

<https://www.csse.org/index.html> (<https://maintainingmentalfitness.com/>)

Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/measures-reduce-community.html>

Make Your Body Work

How to Exercise at Home – the 50 best Free ONLINE WORKOUT RESOURCES

<https://makeyourbodywork.com/how-to-exercise-at-home/>

Prosper Canada

Financial Relief Navigator – Learn about the help you can get to raise your income or lower your expenses in these challenging times.

<https://financialreliefnav.prospercanada.org/en>

UNICEF

Easy, affordable, and healthy eating tips during COVID-19, ideas to help your family maintain a nutritious diet.

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/easy-affordable-and-healthy-eating-tips-during-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak>

UPCOMING EVENTS

CAPULC 2020 Virtual General Member Meeting, October 16, 2020

For information

Email: admin@capulc.ca — Tel: 1-888-492-8279

**ATLCGA – Annual General Meeting,
October 2020**

www.atlanticdigsafe.ca
For information
info@atlanticdigsafe.ca

**CCGA Cancels 2020 Damage Prevention
Symposium, October 26 to 29, 2020**

www.canadiancga.com
For more information on the 2021 dates contact
Mailing Address (c/o Alberta One-Call Corporation)
Suite 104, 4242 Seventh Street SE
Calgary, Alberta T2G 2Y8
Email: info@canadiancga.com

**BCCGA – Member and Board Meeting,
November 5, 2020**

www.commongroundbc.ca
203 – 318 Homer Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 2V2
Email: info@commongroundbc.ca
Phone: 604-568-2700
Toll Free: 1-800-995-8823

MCGA

For event information contact
www.manitobacga.com
Manitoba Common Ground Alliance Inc.
Unit 3 – 1680 Ellice Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0Z2

**SCGA Annual General Meeting,
December 1, 2020**

www.scga.ca
For information contact
Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance
PO Box 33075 Cathedral PO
Regina, SK S4T 7X2
Telephone: (306) 539-2169
Email: info@scga.ca

**ABCGA – Alberta One-Call Joint Venture,
January 1, 2021**

www.digsafeab.ca
Alberta Common Ground Alliance
140, 1209 – 59 Ave SE
Calgary AB T2H 2P6
Email: admin@digsafeab.ca
Phone: 1-833-344-7233
Fax: 403-531-3703
Email: admin@mbcommongroundalliance.com

**ORCGA – 2021 Damage Prevention
Symposium, Date TBA**

www.orcga.com
545 N. Rivermede Road
Suite 102
Vaughan, ON L4K 4H1
Toll Free: 866.446.4493
Local: 905.532.9836
Email: office@orcga.com

Info-Excavation, Annual Convention, Date TBA

www.info-ex.com
For information
1600 Henri-Bourassa West,
Suite 340 Montréal, Qc H3M 3E2
Email: nmoreau@info-ex.com

**dp-PRO Global Locate Masters
Global Excavation Safety Conference
March 23-26, 2021**

Tampa, Florida
For more information go to [www.
GlobalLocateMasters.com](http://www.GlobalLocateMasters.com)

**EAPUOC Safety Seminar and Trade Fair, April
7th, 2021**

Festival Place, Sherwood Park, Alberta
www.eapuoc.com
eapuoc@gmail.com

**CAPULC 2021 AGM and Safety Conference,
April 22, 2021**

For information
Email: admin@capulc.ca
Phone: 1-888-492-8279

**CCOHS Day of Mourning –
Marked annually in Canada on April 28**

The National Day of Mourning is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives or suffered injury or illness on the job or due to a work-related tragedy.

For more information go to www.ccohs.ca
NAOSH (Safety and Health Week) Week,
May 2 – 8, 2021
For more information go to www.naosh.org

**CCOHS Forum 2021 –
The Changing World of Work
May 26-27, 2021**

Halifax, Nova Scotia

**CSSE 2021 Professional Development
Conference – September 12-15, 2021**

Edmonton, Alberta
www.csse.org
For information contact
Canadian Society of Safety Engineering
PO Box 51031
RPO Eglinton Square
Toronto, ON, M1L 4T2
Phone: 437-374-4340
Toll Free: 844-945-0403

Improve your GPR survey with built-in visualization

A ground-penetrating radar (GPR) system has become an important part of the utility locator's toolkit, and owners should expect their system to provide years of service. To get the most out of your GPR system throughout its lifetime, it is important to look for a system that provides regular customer-driven updates that makes your utility locating workflow more efficient. One of the recently released features in the LMX200

GPR is SplitView which is of great use for utility locating. During data collection, SplitView displays a real-time cross section of the GPR data (called LineView) and a map view (called MapView) that shows a bird's-eye view of the current project including the GPS path of collected GPR data, flags, and interpretations added during data collection. The SplitView feature is especially useful in the following scenarios:

1. RETURN TO A PREVIOUS LOCATION

During a utility-locating survey, at any point, you may place a field interpretation on a feature of interest in LineView (Figure 1). This allows you to later return to that location to recollect data or double check your previous observations by simply looking at the MapView as you navigate from your current position and move closer to the interpretation, marked earlier.

2. TRACK A FEATURE OF INTEREST

Seeing both the subsurface data in LineView and a map of the survey area in MapView can significantly aid in data interpretation. To ensure you are tracking a linear feature such as a pipe, you can simply add field interpretations as you come across similarly shaped hyperbolas in LineView (Figure 2). These interpretations will display on MapView, allowing you to determine if a series of hyperbolas are linear in orientation and belong to the same target (indicating a utility) and disregard non-repeating hyperbolas that often clutter GPR data. Also, following a linear target in this manner is helpful in predicting where a target might be.

Similarly, this technique can be used to track a target even if a localized patch of soil with high electrical conductivity causes a very weak hyperbola from a utility, that would often be missed. With SplitView, the operator can scroll back through the cross-section GPR data to the location of where the hyperbola should be and take a second look to pinpoint weaker hyperbolas.

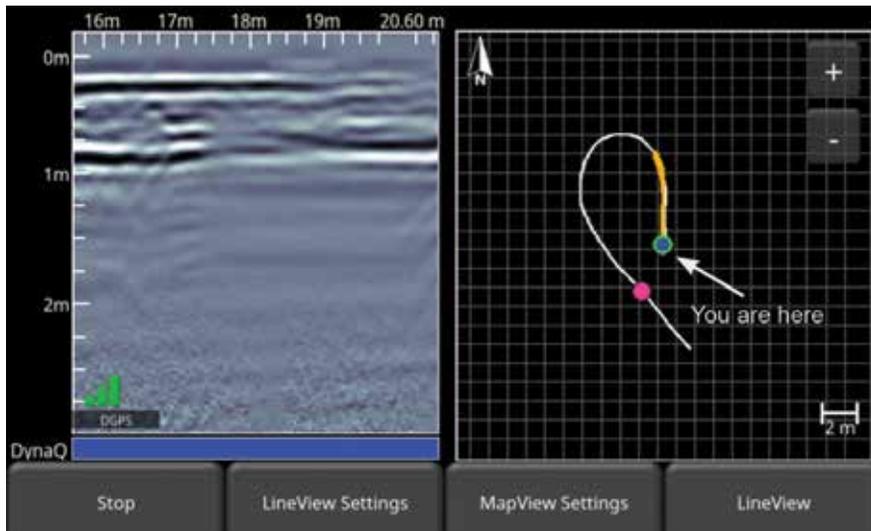


Figure 1: A position indicator (blue dot) is where the LMX200 is currently located. This feature makes it easy to return to your previous location indicated by the pink interpretation dot.

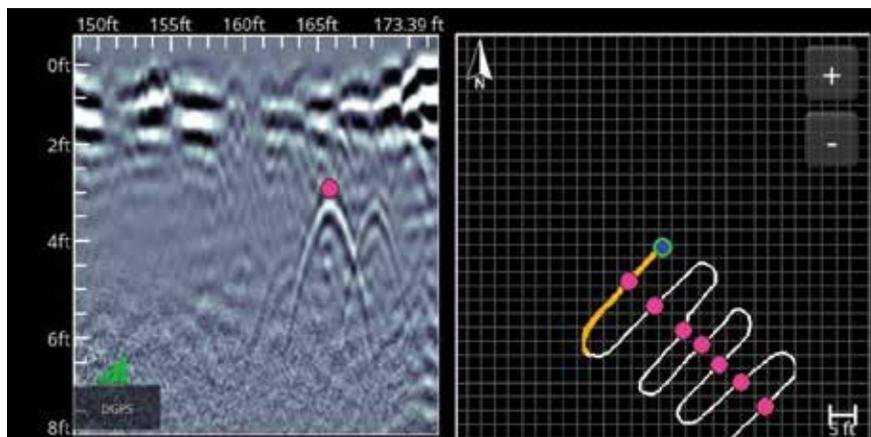


Figure 2: SplitView shows LineView (left) and MapView (right) on the same screen. Field interpretations, added to LineView appear in MapView, showing the spatial relationship between targets.

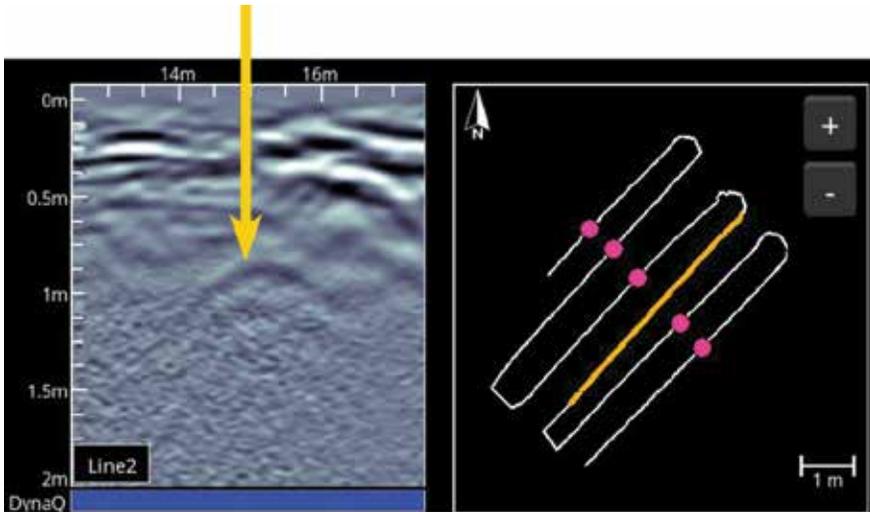


Figure 3: MapView indicates that the operator might have missed a hyperbola. You can simply scroll back to the position for a second look; the orange line in MapView (right) indicates the position range currently displayed in LineView (left).

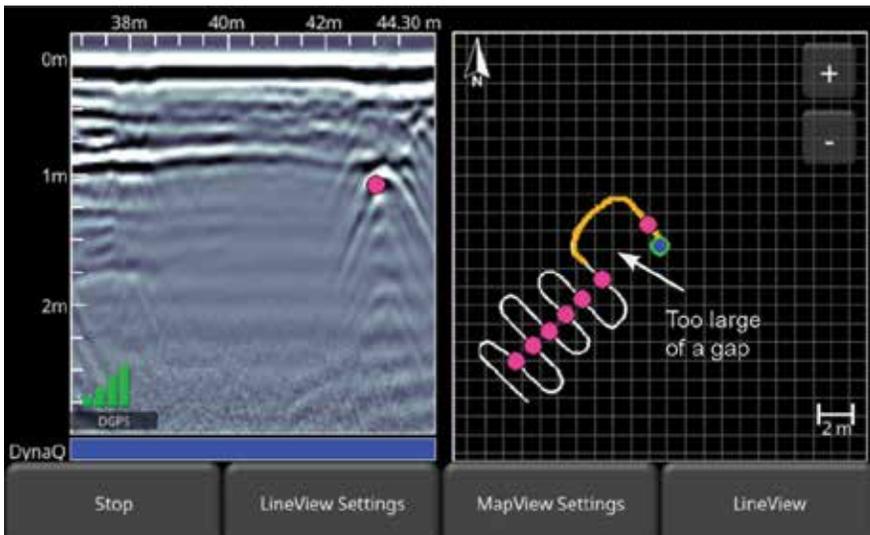


Figure 4: The GPS path of the Line Scan indicates that there is a large gap in the GPR data that would not provide the best depth slice later when data processing.

3. GET A VISUAL OF LARGE AREAS QUICKLY

Rather than going the standard route of collecting a grid of GPR data, it is possible to collect a GPR pseudo grid by moving the GPR system back and forth across the area. Just like GPR gridded data collection, the tighter the distance between adjacent passes, the better the final depth slices. SplitView allows you to visualize your survey path and ensures that you are collecting closely spaced lines (Figure 4). If there is a noticeable gap in your data, you can easily return to that area and collect additional lines.

Knowing your real-time position during a GPR survey has many benefits including easier and improved target interpretations, quickly identifying areas where more data is required for better depth slice generation, and rapidly relocating previously marked targets.

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Jimmy Jennings, One Call Concepts



GlobalExcavationSafetyConference.com

The damage prevention process in Alberta – a unified force

By Mike Sullivan, President of Alberta One-Call and Michelle Tetreault, Executive Director of ABCGA



Earlier this year, the Boards of Directors from Alberta One-Call Corporation (AOC) and the Alberta Common Ground Alliance (ABCGA) agreed to the acquisition of the ABCGA to AOC to support damage prevention in Alberta.

Since 2015, Alberta has experienced a dramatic downturn in its economy that has drastically impacted ABCGA members, operations, and its bottom line. Member meetings that routinely engaged 60-70 participants, dwindled to 10-15 and sponsorship revenues were difficult to obtain.

In the spring of 2019, discussions emerged between the two boards to consider viable opportunities to maintain ABCGA operations. One option considered was the merger of the two entities. As the boards “dug deeper” with a more formal review, it was identified that AOC and ABCGA had complementary operations. The procedural and governance aspect of the damage prevention process that is conducted by the ABCGA in respect to Best Practices, Data Information Report Tool (DIRT) and the Education and Marketing committee, complemented AOC operations. An example of this is the extension of the lifespan of a locate from 14 – 30 days that was facilitated and recommended by the ABCGA Best Practices Committee.

The ABCGA has been leading efforts to implement damage prevention legislation in Alberta. While initially there was concern AOC acquiring the ABCGA could jeopardize the legislation path forward, the vast majority of stakeholders believe that alignment of these two damage prevention powerhouses eliminates duplication and strengthens the strategic direction toward the adoption of comprehensive damage prevention legislation.

In April, a special meeting was held with ABCGA stakeholder groups and the following resolution was passed:

“The voting members are in favour of the cessation of business of the Alberta Common Ground Alliance (ABCGA), effective January 1, 2021, by way of acquisition by Alberta One-Call Corporation, in accordance with the Joint Committee recommendation.”

Most Albertans are looking forward to the end of 2020 as the province, just like every jurisdiction in the world, adapts to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One shining light on the new year is the merger of these two historic damage prevention organizations.

BACKGROUND

AOC is a private, not-for-profit corporation, governed by a 15-member Board of Directors, providing a communication service between people who intend to disturb the ground and utility operators in Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan that have registered their buried facilities with AOC – approximately 1,400 individual buried utility companies. In Alberta alone, AOC processes roughly 400,000 locate requests annually and notifies its members 1.6 million times each year of ground disturbances in the vicinity of their buried plant allowing them to take the necessary steps to prevent damage to those assets.

AOC began operations over 35 years ago as the first One-Call system in Canada. From the beginning, its mandate has included education, awareness, advocacy, and promotion of its call-to-action (Call / ClickBeforeYouDig) and it works in three distinct areas toward the prevention of damage to buried utilities:

1. Promoting registration with AOC.
2. Promoting the Corporation’s service to the digging community.
3. Promoting public awareness of dig safe best practices.

The ABCGA is a not-for-profit membership organization and a regional partner with the Common Ground Alliance who is dedicated to improving worker and public safety and protecting the environment. The ABCGA recruits dedicated damage prevention representatives from thirteen stakeholder categories. Their role is to identify, validate, and promote the adoption of effective ground disturbance and damage prevention best practices and the exchange of accurate and timely information during the damage prevention process. ●

Introducing the Canadian Certified Locator program



**CANADIAN
CERTIFIED
LOCATOR**

An international recognized Certified Locator program that ensures underground facility locators are certified to find critical buried facilities like electric power and telecommunications cables and gas, water, and other pipes is now in Canada.

Australia's DBYD Certification Ltd (DCL) has partnered with Locate Management Institute (LMI) to deliver the Canadian Certified Locator Program.

DCL expanded from Australia's notification (one-call) service Dial Before You Dig to ensure people working as locators had the skills and experience to identify underground facilities and ultimately prevent damage to this critical buried infrastructure.

Due to the strong and ongoing relationship between DCL and LMI, and LMI's

commitment to training and competency of locators across Canada, DCL deemed it prudent that LMI deliver the Canadian Certified Locator Program.

This program, which uses LMI's Utility Advanced Line Locating (UALL) course as a training option, certifies locators by industry experts to distinguish them from self-authorized locators.

"Before the program, there was no objective criteria to determine whether the locator you've hired was competent enough to do the job," says Robert Row, CEO of DCL. "Now companies know when they use someone who has completed the DBYD Certification program, they have been through rigorous testing and assessment."

To gain certification, locators must pass a comprehensive theory exam and practical field test conducted by an industry

assessor. The assessment tests for competent use of equipment, workplace safety knowledge, compliance with OH&S practices, knowledge and understanding of the quality levels of Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE), problem-solving skills, and managing abnormal operating conditions.

The Canadian Certified Locator Program recognizes two different categories of Certified Locator certifications:

1. Facility Owner / Contract – This individual is an employee of a facility owner or is under contract (e.g., Locate Service Provider) to locate for one or more facility owners. This individual is assessed on locating one or more specific facility types that they are responsible for.
2. Private – This individual is hired directly by a ground disturber to locate facilities beyond the demarcation point or other private facilities. They may also be hired to verify all facilities within a work area. This individual is assessed on locating all types of facilities.

Canadian Certified Locators has set the gold standard to ensure locators are qualified to identify where essential infrastructure is located before any ground disturbance takes place.

For further information on the certification program in Canada please visit canadiancertifiedlocator.com or email info@canadiancertifiedlocator.com.

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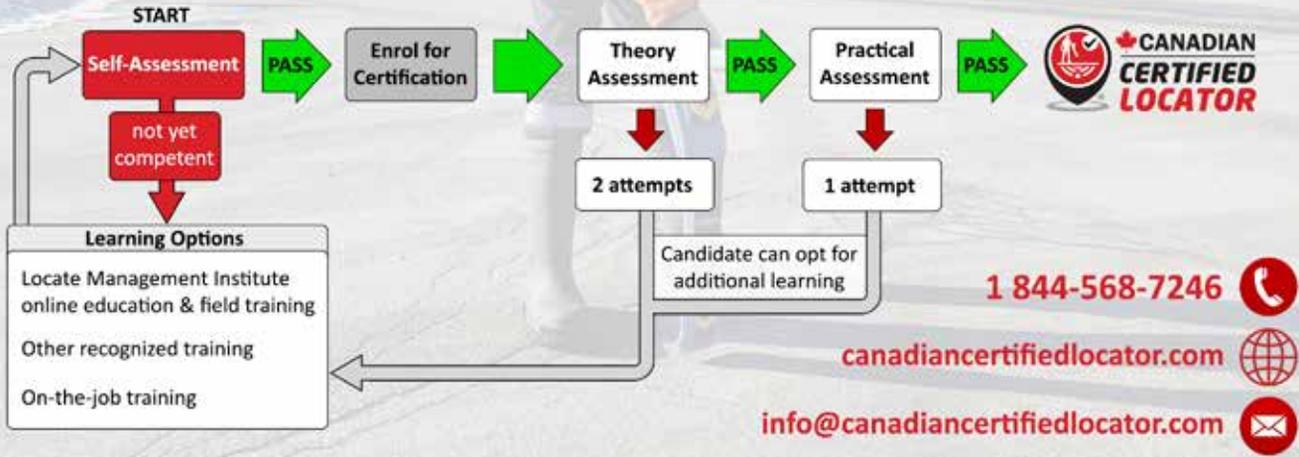
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Canadian Certified Locator brings Australia's internationally recognized locator certification program to Canada.

This certification identifies **Certified Locators** as having the expertise to complete all types of locating work to industry standards.



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CANADIAN CERTIFIED LOCATOR

Social media – not a passing fad



From the Atlantic Common Ground Alliance

It wasn't long ago most corporations chose not to engage in social media. "Why give our dissenters a voice?" was the collective reason not to. What corporations didn't see then was those dissenters were already using social media as their voice and they were using it effectively. By choosing not to engage in this new form of dialogue, corporations were left defenseless.

Today, most companies realize social media is an essential way to reach out and connect with target audiences, and when done correctly, it promotes an active brand focused on communication. The longer you wait, the more you have to lose. Simply creating a social media profile, though, isn't enough. A social media strategy needs to be considered, developed, and managed. Without it, more harm than good could result.

"I've been doing this for a while and I'm still amazed at the power of our social media profiles" said Craig Taffs, Alberta One-Call Corporation team leader and manager of its social media program as well as ClickBeforeYouDig Manitoba. "But we didn't get here overnight. You can't create a profile, leave it alone, and

think it will grow organically. It needs to be planned, developed, and implemented with a strategy, and then revised, improved, and promoted with weekly content – and that's the easy part."

He is right – that is the easy part. The true virtue of a social media program resides in its ability to meaningfully engage and support the owner's values and objectives. "You can't allow yourself to get drawn into a war of words" said Taffs. "People who reach out to us on Twitter or Facebook have chosen to use a medium they are familiar with and we need to meet them there. Once we've connected, it's our job to help them manage their safety."

"It seems like a tall order until you break it down and manage the workflow," said Sher Kirk, operations director at Alberta One-Call. "For us, we direct all social media correspondence through Zendesk, our customer relationship management and support system. When a person connects with us on any of the social media profiles and platforms managed by AOC, a ticket is automatically generated in Zendesk and support staff are notified allowing subject matter experts to respond." ●

Launch of the guidelines for excavation work done near underground infrastructures



From the Quebec Common Ground Alliance

Seven large underground infrastructure companies (Bell, CSEM, Gazifère, Énergir, Hydro-Québec, Telus and Vidéotron) have established common guidelines to be followed when excavating near underground infrastructures. The first of its kind in Quebec, and perhaps a first in Canada!

Effective immediately, this new document simplifies the excavation work done by contractors near underground infrastructures. Every guideline, technical specification and specific requirement that must be complied with either at the planning stage, before undertaking or during excavation work are described in this document.

It covers, among other things, clearance distance requirements for different infrastructures and backfilling standards to be followed. Each type of excavation method is described, whether

mechanical or soft, as drilling techniques and the installation of new underground infrastructures near existing ones.

It is important to note that these new guidelines will replace those provided by these seven companies so as to ensure a safe working environment and to prevent personal injury and damage to underground infrastructures.

This unique document will be available from the network owners collaborating in these guidelines and during the training sessions offered by Info-Excavation. We prefer you consult and use the electronic version which is updated regularly and available on different websites, such as on Info-Excavation's.

View the electronic version of these guidelines at <https://www.info-ex.com/en/damages-prevention/guides-and-tools/guidelines-for-excavation-work-done-near-underground-infrastructures/>. ●

Standing Committee on Finance – ground disturbance recommendation

From the British Columbia Common Ground Alliance



On August 21st, the Province released the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services REPORT ON THE BUDGET 2021 CONSULTATION – VOLUME I.

Thanks to MJ Whitmarsh for keeping ground disturbance awareness top of mind in Victoria. ●

BCCGA's attendance and presentation are mentioned in the Executive Summary and then under the heading of Public Safety & Justice on Page 89 of the report under the heading Ground Disturbance is the following:

Ground Disturbance The British Columbia Common Ground Alliance explained how homeowner-caused damage to underground infrastructure, such as telecommunications, water, sewers and natural gas lines, is growing. They stated that such damage not only interrupts access to utility services, it also has environmental impacts, results in costly repairs, and pulls finite emergency resources away from critical need. To prevent homeowner-caused damage to underground infrastructure, the British Columbia Common Ground Alliance recommended requiring homeowners to use the BC 1 Call services before they dig. They explained that by calling or clicking BC 1 Call, a free call and service, homeowners receive all of the locate requests that they need to keep them digging safely.

At the end of the section in Recommendations to Government on Page 92 is the following:

Ground Disturbance Recommendation #109. Require all homeowners to contact B.C. 1 Call prior to digging on their property to avoid any damage to underground infrastructure.

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The ORCGA Damage Prevention Training program (DPT) resurfaces

From the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance



The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll not only on the businesses of our members, but also the ORCGA's capability to deliver its' Education Programs. The DPT Program was in full swing right up until March 13th. Then, the COVID-19 Pandemic set in and businesses were either forced to have their employees work from home or shut down completely. The Pandemic also forced the ORCGA to put the DPT Program on hold.

Businesses were required to adjust and develop new operating models in order to survive the Pandemic. The expansion of virtual meetings using platforms including Zoom, MS Teams or GoToMeetings became the norm with organizations and associations.

The ORCGA Education and Training Committee was no different. At the first virtual meeting, it was determined that a "virtual" DPT Program should be investigated since the construction industry, an "Essential Service" would continue, including the need to Call or Click Before You Dig and obtain locates prior to excavation. The need for Locator Training would need to be delivered in some way or form. The Committee instructed the ORCGA to investigate virtual or on-line options for delivery of the DPT Program.

The ORCGA began discussions with a training development firm to assess the scope, feasibility and cost associated with developing an online version. Further clarification and the details required for running the DPT Program were discussed at length with the DPT Instructors.

The most significant finding was that the DPT Programs (both 100 and 200) were heavily weighted on "practical" components where the students would go outside of the classroom to observe and practice various locating exercises, including trouble shooting, etc. Although there are currently over 900 PowerPoint slides in the program deck, this makes up only 50 per cent of the course.

Nevertheless, the course material was provided to the training development firm, where they evaluated options to convert the

program into an e-learning format. Their estimated costs to develop the program were substantially higher than expected and would require substantial development time. And this only covered 50 per cent of the course material, and the practical being the balance, which would require in-person instruction. In addition, the final written examination would need to be in-person as well.

The DPT instructors reconvened to discuss how this initiative should proceed and determined that even if a virtual program was developed and implemented, there would still remain a constraint on the number of students that could be instructed on the practical aspects of the course at any one time since the enforcement of social distancing is critical.

The instructors agreed that the maximum class size would be 5-8 with an absolute maximum of no more than 10 students. From here it was determined that in the immediate term, the social distancing protocol of 6' of spacing between students could readily be achieved using a classroom normally sized for 25 or 30. In recent years, the DPT Program has changed with the needs of the ORCGA membership. Often, requests are made to run smaller DPT courses for individual companies with 5-8 students. This change in course offering has seen excellent uptake by our members, as it removes the previous requirement of minimum class sizes of around 20 students, and, in addition, running the courses where the members are located vs. a harder-to-reach centralized location.

This realization and learning opened the possibility of resuming the DPT Program, with the only change being "maximum" class sizes versus "minimum" class sizes. The other challenge is the demand for the instructors who would need to run an increased number of programs for what would have been a single course.

To test whether this would be viable to the membership, a request for training 24 students at one of our excavator members in August will be used. The course would have previously been run as one course, five days, and one instructor. Discussions with the member along with the complications presented by the Pandemic resulted in an agreement to run 3 – 8 person classes

of the course over a three-week period. This also requires triple the number of instructors in the same timeframe.

Based on the success with this excavator member, the ORCGA has been working with the previously cancelled program, that was to have run in April, using a similar format. Since this time, the ORCGA has received individual requests for training moving into Fall 2020.

The ORCGA will now be offering and organizing DPT Training for its members using the new smaller class format and will also post tentative dates and locations on the website based on

demand and location. All course information will be communicated here: <https://orcga.com/damage-prevention-training/training-dates/>

Inquiries and training requests can be made through Kim Shepard, ORCGA Manager Administration & Training (Kim@orcga.com).

The ORCGA looks forward to resuming the Damage Prevention Technician course and educating students to achieve competence in locating buried utility services. ●



Where's the line?

The Joint Utility Safety Team (JUST) is a unique group of Alberta's electric utilities who work together to address a common issue: overhead and underground power line safety.

JUST is committed to reducing the frequency of power line contacts across the province; we provide industry education, safety awareness, and resources to keep Albertans safe. By pooling resources and expertise, JUST's utility partners are maximizing their efforts to reach all industries that require work near overhead and underground power lines.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Whether you're new on site or a seasoned professional, maintaining a safe work environment should always be your top priority — especially when working near overhead or underground power lines.

PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS

Last year, over 600 companies in Alberta faced the consequences of a power line contact; between hard expenses, penalties, injuries, and site shut downs. As an employer, it's your responsibility to ensure your team is protected. Educate yourself and your team about power line safety.

For more information including online tutorials, line maps, locate requests, or industry-specific information, visit <https://wheres-theline.ca/>.

WHERE'S THE LINE?
POWER LINE SAFETY

Did You Know?

The cost of damages is estimated to be over **\$1B** per year in Ontario?



Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (2020) 2019 DIRT Report, Version 13.0
For more information, please visit <https://orcga.com/publications/dirt-report/>

Did You Know?

There were **20** damages per working day in Ontario?



Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (2020) 2019 DIRT Report, Version 13.0
For more information, please visit <https://orcga.com/publications/dirt-report/>

Did You Know?

There were 4940 reported damages in 2019?



Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (2020) 2019 DIRT Report, Version 13.0
For more information, please visit <https://orcga.com/publications/dirt-report/>

Vast networks of conduits and cables lay underground, delivering products and services to Ontario communities: telecommunication and electrical cables, gas conduits, sewers, water lines, drainage systems, oil pipelines, etc. Many of these underground infrastructures are buried not far from the ground's surface, which increases the risk of damages during excavation or rehabilitation work.

Despite all efforts made to increase awareness on the importance of exercising vigilance during excavation work, damages occur too often. This has an impact on the environment and on the integrity of services, but more importantly, it puts the safety of workers and citizens at risk.

Preservation of this infrastructure is paramount and the mission of the ORCGA, the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance.

Representing over 500 members of Ontario's damage prevention industry, including municipalities, utility companies, construction and safety organizations companies, the ORCGA was created as the voice of utility infrastructure damage prevention and is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety for the public, construction workers and public infrastructure.

The primary objective of the ORCGA is to raise utility damage prevention awareness and produce practical damage prevention tools and services for use in the field, most notably, the CCGA Underground Infrastructure Damage Prevention Best Practices 3.0, training such as the Damage Prevention Technician courses, designed to teach students on achieving competence in locating buried utilities and the *DIRT Report*.

The Reporting and Evaluation Committee, via the Damage Information Reporting Tool database, gathers meaningful data regarding the occurrence of facility events and performs analysis of the root causes of damage to underground infrastructure.

This analysis forms the content of the *DIRT Report* which identifies the root causes of events, the type of equipment used, when they occurred, and the type of work performed.

The *DIRT Report* also details an economic assessment of disruptions, in both Direct Costs (cost of repairs) and Indirect Costs (societal costs). The consequences of severing a natural gas line, an underground power line, a fibre optic cable or damaging a vital water main can be costly. Utility damage prevention has high eco-

Representing over 500 members of Ontario's damage prevention industry, including municipalities, utility companies, construction and safety organizations companies, the ORCGA was created as the voice of utility infrastructure damage prevention and is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety for the public, construction workers and public infrastructure.

conomic importance when direct costs such as repair labour and materials are considered, but especially when societal costs are factored in, such as worker injuries, emergency services interventions, work and traffic delays and legal costs.

Indeed, in 2019, the socioeconomic costs for the province of Ontario totaled more than \$670M, and the average cost per incident totaled \$136K. However, that reflects only the "reported" damages. The committee estimates that unreported damages in Ontario total over \$330M, bringing the cost of damages to a staggering \$1B per year.

The Reporting and Evaluation Committee also recommends what actions industry and stakeholders can do to help reduce future incidents, such as outreach and educational information to reduce Excavation Practices Not Sufficient (lack of careful excavation practices) and No Notification to One Call Centre, both significant causes of damages in Ontario.

The analysis included in the *DIRT Report*, in conjunction with the use of CCGA Underground Infrastructure Damage Prevention Best Practices 3.0, provides stakeholders with the tools needed to educate stakeholders, prepare targeted damage prevention programs and to develop effective communication campaigns.

Because of this, the ORCGA and its members know that their efforts have made, and will continue to make, communities and infrastructure assets across Ontario safer.

For additional information on the ORCGA and *The 2019 DIRT Report*, visit <https://orcga.com/publications/dirt-report/>. ●

Did You Know?

At peak in 2019,

186K
notifications per
week were sent
to members
for locating?



Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (2020) 2019 DIRT Report, Version 13.0
For more information, please visit <https://orcga.com/publications/dirt-report/>

Did You Know?

Amount of damages
with and without locates:



Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (2020) 2019 DIRT Report, Version 13.0
For more information, please visit <https://orcga.com/publications/dirt-report/>

Did You Know?

41% of damages
are due to improper
excavation practices?



Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (2020) 2019 DIRT Report, Version 13.0
For more information, please visit <https://orcga.com/publications/dirt-report/>

Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance breakfast stresses line locates

by Brian Zinchuk



The Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance's 30th anniversary contractor safety breakfasts came to Estevan on April 10, with about 120 in attendance at the Beefeater Plaza.

The breakfasts are held throughout the province each spring during breakup, providing a safety reminder to be careful by ensuring line location is done before any ground disturbance. This year's message also talked about what to do if you strike an overhead powerline. As a celebration of the 30th anniversary, breakfasts are being held in 30 different locations.

Derrick Mann, SaskEnergy vice-president, engineering, integrity and construction, and SCGA board member spoke briefly before a video was shown highlighting several recent incidents. In these cases, no one was injured, but there was substantial impact.

In one incident on the east side of Regina, a contractor struck a natural gas line and several restaurants, a pub and a medical clinic had to be evacuated. As natural gas levels rose in a nearby building, power had to be shut off to 2,000 customers until the situation was rectified, lest the gas be set off in an explosion.

Another case saw a contractor putting in a water line for a new business cut

a fibreoptic communications line, which was down for 24 hours. During that time, the impacts were as broad as businesses unable to do transactions to kids being unable to do homework.

That contractor thought he could just bury it and fill up the hole. He was found out, and the cost to him was estimated to be 10x to 15x any money they might have saved otherwise.

Yorkton's fire chief recounted how a man replacing his fence put the new fence post right beside the originals, but that was enough to hit an underground powerline that serviced the house, causing a fire to start in the house. It also shut down the road between the local hospital and a school. The fire department's bill alone was a minimum of \$3,000.

Overall, Saskatchewan had 480 line strikes last year, the majority of which were natural gas and telecom strikes.

After the breakfast, Mann said, "The goal here is more education. We're trying to get out. We have 30 breakfasts across the province this year in April, which is our safe digging month. We're really trying to hit home to the people doing the excavating, making sure they're using Sask FirstCall, they're getting locates and working safely. That's really the message.

"It's really simple, but it costs lives every year, it costs a lot of damage to in-

frastructure, and it takes a lot of time and effort if people aren't doing the right thing," he said.

Attendees were given this year's safety pamphlet and a sticker indicating staking colour conventions.

While Sask 1st Call has 92 member companies, but participation is voluntary and not legislated. Thus, there are some exceptions, a notable one being Access Communications. While they were represented in the video, they are not part of Sask 1st Call.

"We work with them, try to encourage them, but it's ultimately up to them to make that decision to come on. We obviously welcome them. The more companies we get on that 1st Call, the less companies people have to research who else is in the area," Mann said.

The SCGA is working with the government, both provincially and nationally to make this a legislative requirement. With all affected companies on board, that would make it a "one call" system instead of a "first call" system.

A line locate is done for free, but Sask 1st Call must be notified two days in advance. It can be done online at www.sask1stcall.com, there's an app, and the number is 1-866-828-4888. On the Sask-Tel Mobility network, you can also use #4888. ●



The CCGA Damage Prevention Symposium goes virtual!

Beginning October 2020 until May 2021, the CCGA will be offering monthly training and awareness sessions. Join us as we #DigDeeper into Damage Prevention.

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

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SESSION	DATE	TIME
Canadian Energy Regulator - Leadership in crisis and Q&A with new Executive Director - Gitane DeSilva	TBA	TBA
Communications in the Time of COVID - Shifting tactics	Wed. Nov. 25	11:00 - 12:30 MT
Canada's National Infrastructure Corridor - What is it, and why is it important?	Wed. Jan. 27	11:00 - 12:30 MT
Managing Rights of Way before they manage YOU	Wed. Feb. 17	11:00 - 12:30 MT
Asset Management - How this will help you with long term planning	Wed. Mar. 31	11:00 - 12:30 MT
Ground Disturbance and Safe Excavation	Thurs. Apr. 1	11:00 - 12:30 MT
Incident Investigations - latest trends and methodologies	Wed. April 14	11:00 - 12:30 MT
Indigenous Consultation - Have consultation practices changed post COVID-19? Learn more about the Canadian Energy Regulator's Indigenous Advisory Monitoring Committee (IAMC)	Wed. May 21	11:00 - 12:30 MT
Locating Process - How to become more efficient	Wed. Apr. 28	11:00 - 12:30 MT
3D Utility and Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)		
In partnership with Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI)	Wed. May 26	11:00 - 12:30 MT

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“While CAPULC is currently actively working on locator processes with the potential to develop standards, we are not presently in a position to endorse a specific training, certificate program or recommend one training provider over another. We do recognize that some facility owners and training partners in the industry are offering courses that are created with the intention to improve underground facility locator competency. Please stay tuned for updates in relation to this!

Some training facilities have passed along information to share with our members. This information is not all inclusive and there are many programs and training available across Canada. CAPULC does not take responsibility of any outcome from any training program. Please make sure to do your research and explore the course(s) to best meet your current requirements and location.” – *Jamie Andersen, President*



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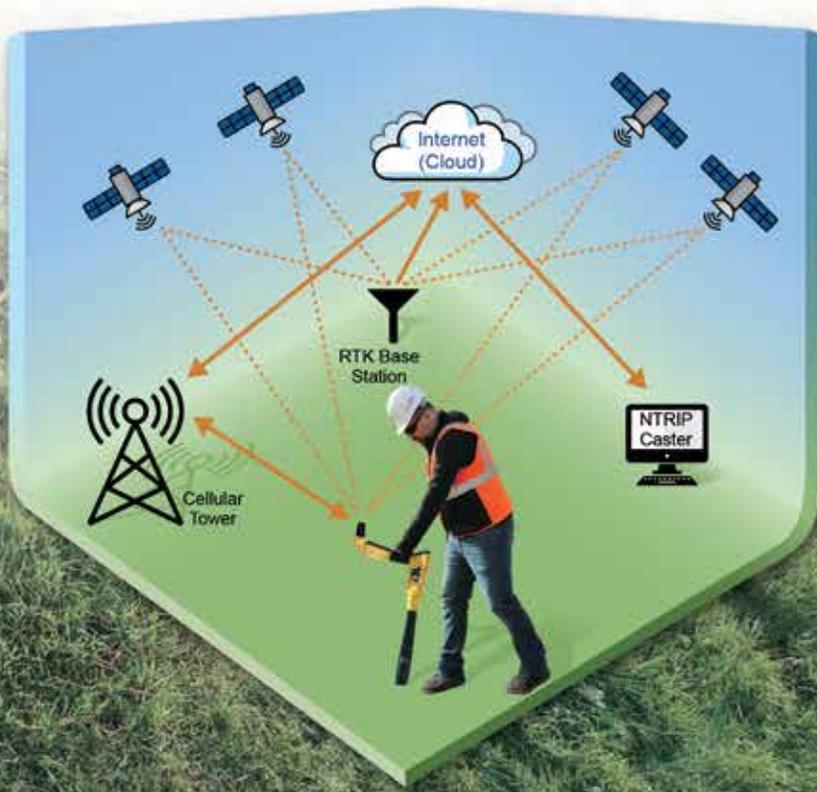


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