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# NEWS RELEASE

## THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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### Senate Energy Committee launches study of "One Call Before You Dig" programs

**OTTAWA (February 25, 2014)** – The Standing Senate Committee on Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources is launching a study today to examine and report on the current state of "One Call" programs that identify critical underground infrastructure in Canada.

"As we heard in our previous study on the safe transport of hydrocarbons, pipeline failures in populated areas caused by inadvertent striking of a pipeline by excavators, is a significant concern for municipalities. These accidents pose risks to people, property and the environment," said Senator Richard Neufeld, chair of the committee. "These accidents can be reduced through effective awareness programs, which is why we believe it is valuable for Canadians that our Senate committee examine the state of "One Call" programs."

During its public hearings, the committee will examine the ease of access to One Call programs and their damage prevention procedures, with a view to facilitating One Call services, as well as best practice harmonization of underground protection measures and call-before-you-dig initiatives across federal, provincial, territorial and municipal government levels.

"One Call" programs can be an important tool in preventing accidents across the country," said Senator Grant Mitchell, deputy chair of the committee. "This is especially true in resource-rich Alberta, where we have a growing population and many infrastructure projects currently underway. Accidental damage to pipelines poses a danger to the public and is costly for industry, which raises the question of how it might be better managed."

Senators will hear from a variety of witnesses including municipal authorities and stakeholder groups representing utilities and the construction industry. The committee will be making recommendations for specific measures to enhance harmonization of best practices and the development of a national one call service as a follow up to its August 2013 study *Moving Energy Safely: A Study of the Safe Transport of Hydrocarbons by Pipelines, Tankers and Railcars in Canada*, in which the committee recommended that the federal government facilitate efforts to establish a national access point for information on the location of buried infrastructure, as well as the promotion of one-call centres and call-before-you-dig initiatives. The committee intends to table its report by the end of the year.

To find out more about the work of the committee and to view previously tabled reports, please visit: <http://senate-senat.ca/enev-e.asp>

Follow the Senate of Canada on Twitter [@SenateCA](https://twitter.com/SenateCA) and get updates about the committee using the hashtag #ENEV.

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