



May 30, 2011

Mr. Robert A. Morin
Secretary General
Canadian Radio-television and
Telecommunications Commission
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2

Dear Mr. Morin

Re: Support for CCGA Application for Shared Use of 811

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) supports the Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) application to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) for shared use of 811 in Canada for public access to both non-emergency medical services and Call Before You Dig.

Canada's critical infrastructure – including hospitals, industrial facilities such as on transmission facilities, telecommunications, air traffic control, banking, and emergency response – constitute valuable strategic assets benefitting all Canadians. Much of Canada's critical energy and telecommunications infrastructure is underground, supporting public safety, national security, and sustaining the Canadian economy. It is in our national interest to protect and maintain the integrity and reliability of these assets. Furthermore, it is Canadians' expectations that all reasonable measures be taken to ensure public safety.

The greatest risk to Canada's critical underground infrastructure is excavation by homeowners and commercial excavators. Currently there are multiple ten-digit telephone numbers that must be called in order to determine the location of underground infrastructure. The result is public confusion, lack of awareness, and thus increased disruption of essential public services.

The solution is a single nationwide three-digit telephone number for Call Before You Dig in Canada similar to the one established in the US. Replacing the multiple ten-digit telephone numbers with one nationwide three-digit number will not only eliminate confusion but will ultimately protect human life and the environment. We agree that shared use of 811 is the ideal choice. It will enable easier access to provincial One Call centres and result in greater public benefit from Canada's limited N11 resources.

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) represents Canada's transmission pipeline companies. Our members are world leaders in providing safe, reliable long-distance energy transportation. Transmission pipelines transport nearly all of Canada's daily crude oil and natural gas production from producing regions to markets throughout Canada and the United States. CEPA is dedicated to ensuring a strong and viable transmission pipeline industry in a manner that emphasizes public safety and pipeline integrity, social and environmental stewardship, and cost competitiveness.

In conclusion, CEPA supports the CCGA application for shared use of 811 in Canada. We strongly believe that achieving this goal will significantly enhance public awareness, increase public safety, and ultimately help protect Canada's critical infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Brenda Kenny
President & CEO

c.c.: Canadian Common Ground Alliance