

**Ministry of Public and
Business Service Delivery**

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**Ministère des Services au
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996-2023-691

May 11, 2023

Dear Stakeholder –

The Government of Ontario is committed to both the safety and well-being of Ontarians and the need to build critical infrastructure quickly and efficiently, including new housing, improved public transit and expanding high-speed internet access. Fundamental to these objectives is the timely and cost-effective provision of underground infrastructure locates.

In support of this, the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Ministry of Energy intends to consult on potential options that could prohibit fees being charged by members of Ontario One Call for underground infrastructure locates. The provision of free locates is a current practice in almost every municipality in Ontario today. The Government will engage key industry stakeholders, including energy utilities, municipalities, telecommunication companies, excavators, and others on this important matter. This collaboration will also help to ensure that any prohibition on locate fees considers how infrastructure owners can provide these services in the most cost-effective way possible.

Working in partnership with Ontario One Call, the Government will also consult on enhancements to the locate delivery requirements specified in the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012*, and will consider a range of options to build flexibility into the current locate delivery system, while supporting overall locate performance improvements. This includes potential expansion of the dedicated locator model, as well as new rules to support locate delivery timeframes, and consideration of compliance related activities that account for the realities of Ontario's construction sector. Should the Government move forward with any changes resulting from these consultations, it would look to do so in a timely fashion.

As a result of these consultation efforts, the effective date of the administrative penalty regulation administered by Ontario One Call will now be April 1, 2024.

Your organization plays a key role in this process. Over the next few weeks, additional details about this initiative will be provided including ways you can actively participate in shaping the future of Ontario's construction activities. Your input will be vital in ensuring Ontario's economy continues to flourish and the province remains a leader in expanding its infrastructure footprint in a timely manner.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and collaboration. Together, we will build a stronger, safer, and more connected province.

Sincerely,

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The Honourable Kaleed Rasheed
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Smith', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Todd Smith
Minister of Energy

- c: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation