



SEP 26 2016

MR. KEVIN O'REILLY  
MLA, FRAME LAKE

**Oral Question 181 - 18(2): 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Services**

During the June 7, 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) committed to doing what he could to see if it was possible to move implementation of 9-1-1 in the Northwest Territories (NWT) forward.

In 2015, MACA completed a 9-1-1 implementation study which estimated start-up costs for a 9-1-1 initiative at approximately \$615,000, and annual operating costs at \$266,000. Phasing-in 9-1-1 by starting with larger communities will not reduce these costs. New legislation would also be required to introduce a tariff that will increase monthly phone fees.

I have discussed this matter with the department and in light of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) current fiscal environment, 9-1-1 is not included in MACA's 2017-2018 business plan. Further, there do not appear to be alternative options available to help finance implementation at this time, such as proceeds from the Bell-Anderson 9-1-1 settlement.


I will continue working with regular members to look for opportunities to begin implementation within the term of the 18th Legislative Assembly. The Department communicated its desire to implement 9-1-1 to the federal government when input was sought on areas where future investment in public safety may be needed.

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In addition, I will schedule a meeting with the Standing Committee on Government Operations to help establish a common understanding of current implementation options. As well, MACA is developing a campaign to increase public awareness of the current emergency numbers, which I expect will be implemented in early 2017.

As you can appreciate, the GNWT is faced with considerable financial challenges. Although 9-1-1 has not been identified as an 18th Legislative Assembly priority, efforts will continue to find opportunities for implementation.

Thank you for raising this important topic.



Caroline Cochrane  
Minister of Municipal and  
Community Affairs

c. Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator  
Department of Executive