

## CCGA DIRT Report Estimates Damage to Buried Utilities Continues to Cost Canada at Least \$1 Billion Every Year

**NIAGARA FALLS, ONT. (Oct. 9, 2019)** – The Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) released the 2018 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report in Niagara Falls, Ontario today during its annual National Damage Prevention Symposium. This report presents characteristics, themes and contributing factors leading to damages in Canada as reported via the DIRT system.

In 2018, there were 11,693 damages reported via DIRT for Canada; on average, 47 reported damages per work day (assuming 254 work days per year). The societal cost of these damages to underground infrastructure in Canada continues to be estimated at least \$1 billion per year.

Among all damage reports with an identified and known root cause, 22% occurred because no locate request was made to a One Call Centre and 38% were the result of insufficient excavation practices.

While reporting damages in DIRT is voluntary, the data is critical for the CCGA to determine root causes and develop mitigating measures to reduce and eliminate them.

### Highlights:

- 11,693 damages voluntarily reported in 2018 – 2.6% higher than 2017.
- 47 damages occurred per work day.
- 22% of damages are the direct result of not making a locate request to a One Call Centre.
- Damages cost Canadians \$1 Billion annually

The complete 2018 DIRT Report is available to download at [www.canadiancga.com](http://www.canadiancga.com). Stakeholders interested in submitting data to the 2019 report, or establish a Virtual Private DIRT account, should visit the DIRT website at [www.cga-dirt.com](http://www.cga-dirt.com).

*The Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing public safety, and increasing the integrity and reliability of Canada's underground utility infrastructure through the development and implementation of effective and efficient damage prevention practices across Canada. As Canada's unified voice on damage prevention, the CCGA attracts members from all Canadian national organizations and associations who share common damage prevention and public safety solutions. The CCGA and its Regional Partners welcome all stakeholders who wish to be part of the identification and promotion of best practices that reduce damage to buried utilities.*

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