

AR1430

Mr. Abid Mavani
Fatality Inquiry Coordinator
Alberta Justice
9th Floor, Peace Hills Trust Tower
10011 – 109 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8

Dear Mr. Mavani:

I received your request to respond to Recommendation 6 from the Tracy Lyle Janvier Public Fatality Inquiry. This was a tragic event, and the department of Technology and Innovation supports measures that would help avoid future recurrences.

Technology and Innovation supports the recommendation in principle; however, in Canada, telecommunications, including cellular services, are a matter of federal jurisdiction. The Government of Canada sets telecommunications policy, and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is the regulatory body responsible for market oversight. Alberta's government does not have authority over locations where cellular providers offer coverage, nor the quality of cellular services.

While Alberta does not have jurisdiction on cellular coverage, Alberta's government has acknowledged the importance of better cellular coverage on our roadways. In fact, the Premier's mandate letters to the Honourable Nate Glubish, Minister of Technology and Innovation in November 2022 and July 2023 explicitly prioritized exploring options to address poor cell phone coverage on major highways across Alberta.

As an initial step to promote improved service on our roadways, we encouraged major telecommunication mobile providers to leverage the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's Broadband Fund, which included a mobile component before it closed on April 18, 2023.

Additionally, Technology and Innovation is currently examining the issue of gaps in cellular coverage on our major highways and plans to consult with Albertans, other orders of government, and the private sector to gather data about cellular coverage problems on our major highways. We will use the information gathered to encourage telecommunications companies to address these gaps.

.../2

Mr. Abid Mavani
Page 2

Finally, Technology and Innovation will track improvements in cellular coverage and continue to explore options to address ongoing poor cell phone coverage on major highways across Alberta, as appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. If you require anything further, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

David.James Digitally signed by David.James
Date: 2023.12.08 16:54:29 -07'00'

David James
Deputy Minister

cc: Rae-Ann Lajeunesse
Deputy Minister, Public Safety and Emergency Services