



TOWN OF MINTO

DATE: April 12, 2018

REPORT TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Linda Dickson Emergency Manager CEMC

SUBJECT: Wireless Public Alerting Report

STRATEGIC PLAN:

6.0 Protect the health and safety of the community and citizens, business and the environment, by supporting a quality Volunteer Fire Department, emergency preparedness, and access to health care, prevention and wellness opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

This report provides information on the process in place to implement Wireless Public Alerting.

In 2009, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) mandated Pelmorex Communications Inc. to create an emergency alerting system (National Alert Aggregations and Disseminations (NAAD) system. The Canadian National Public Alerting System (NPAS) is a core component of this system. In 2014, the system became mandatory for all broadcasters and broadcasting distribution and referred to as the Alert Ready system.

Bruce Power initiated an application to the CRTC to consider use of NPAS for wireless (cell) services. There were public consultations and submissions resulting in decision CRTC 2017-91 issued April 6, 2017. The CRTC Communications Monitoring Report shows that Canadians are shifting toward mobile devices and away from landline telephone services.

COMMENTS:

The CRTC decision 2017-91 requires all Canadian Wireless Service Providers (WSPs) to participate and to implement NPAS by April 6 2018 on all LTE networks. Pre-LTE networks and mobile satellite services are not required to implement the NPAS. In its' decision, the CRTC determined that WSPs "may not identify a separate fee for Wireless Public Alerting (WPA) on subscribers' bills".

The Province is aligning with the Federal Government on the promotion of this new service. They will issue a media release in March to kick off the introduction of the wireless services to the Alert Ready System. The Provincial EP activities will focus on the roll out of the wireless service and we encourage it to be part of our local EP week (month) public education information. There will be provincial wide testing of the system in May and September. A copy of a letter from Ross Nichol's current Chief of OFMEM is attached. The letter provides some key target dates for the roll out of Wireless Public Alerting. Information on wireless public alerting was sent out the week of March 19.

A recent decision of the CRTC 2018-85 dated March 8, 2018 provided additional information regarding the rollout of testing and public awareness campaigns. Wireless

providers should send a minimum of one test text message to their customers during the first year of rollout and a public awareness and education campaign be undertaken in advance of the April 6 Rollout.

With the inclusion of compatible wireless devices in the Alert Ready system, an additional layer of communicating potential hazards/risks to residents is available.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the Emergency Manager CEMC's April 12, 2018 report on Wireless Public Alerting..

Bill White C.A.O. Clerk