

# Province pledges to study 911 service

The provincial government announced Tuesday it wants to study the province's 911 system with an eye to establishing an enhanced 911 (E911) system.

Municipal Affairs Minister Dianne Whalen said in a release the government wants to hire a company to study the feasibility of an E911 system.

"We believe that implementation of a provincewide 911 system is a valid objective, however, we must undertake a study

that will provide us with the technical data and cost analyses that are required to make an informed decision," Whalen said.

Currently, the Northeast Avalon, Corner Brook and Labrador West have 911 service. Throughout the rest of the province, people have to specifically dial for fire, ambulance and police service.

E911 is different in that, if implemented, it would provide an exact location of the

caller for emergency responders, as well as other information like available water sources in the area, and whether or not oxygen is in use.

Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) said the study was a positive thing because people in rural areas of the province need 911 service.

"Our members have lobbied very hard to establish a provincewide 911 system," said MNL president Graham Letto.