

From the Municipal Services Committee
City of Yellowknife

Resolution regarding use of communications devices while driving

USE OF COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES WHILE DRIVING

WHEREAS the dangers of distracted driving are becoming better understood by experts and by the general public;

AND WHEREAS distracted driving has a social, physical and financial impact on the citizens of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS evidence from a convergence of research has shown that driver distraction, of all types, is associated with approximately 25% of crashes;

AND WHEREAS drivers using cell phones and hand-held devices are four times more likely to be involved in a collision;

AND WHEREAS seven provinces have passed legislation to restrict the use of cell phones and hand held devices while driving;

AND WHEREAS in November 2009 the NWT Legislative Assembly defeated a motion banning the use of hand held devices while driving in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS a number of other municipalities across Canada have supported the enactment of distracted driving legislation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NWT Association of Communities urge the Members of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly to move forward with legislation prohibiting the use of cell phones and hand held communications devices, excluding two-way radios, while operating a motor vehicle, with exemption provided for police and emergency services.