

Manitoba PC Caucus



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MLA's bill would create Silver Alert system to find missing Manitobans

First-of-its-kind legislation in Canada would apply to all adults with cognitive impairments: Isleifson

Bill 214 introduced by Len Isleifson, MLA for Brandon East, to establish legislation for a Silver Alert system was debated at second reading today. The private member's bill would allow Silver Alerts to be issued by law enforcement agencies across Manitoba as a way to work with media and the public to locate and return wandering adults with cognitive impairments.

"Manitoba would be a leader by creating this legislation, the first of its kind in Canada," said Isleifson, who introduced the bill earlier this month. "With the number of dementia patients on the rise, this bill aims to ensure our province has a system to better locate missing adults with cognitive difficulties and ease the minds of a growing number of families."

The Missing Persons Amendment Act would apply to all adults with impairments such as Alzheimer's disease, dementia, autism, Asperger's syndrome and other cognitive disorders. Much like the Amber Alert systems used throughout North America to locate missing children, Silver Alerts in Manitoba would allow law enforcement, health-care providers, families and the media to work together to find cognitively impaired adults who become lost.

"This legislation would give police an additional tool when it comes to finding missing adults with cognitive impairments," said Isleifson, who has worked with the Brandon Police Service, the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba and other stakeholders on Bill 214. "Our government is committed to ensuring all Manitobans feel safe, and that every avenue is explored when individuals are missing from their families."

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