Call delays continue at central ambulance hub

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The current CACC system has a detrimental impact on productivity and costs. Improvements to the CACC system would enable Halton Region to further reduce response times, adds region staff.

According to Sage, the region s hands are essentially tied until the ministry decides to upgrade its outdated technology at the Mississauga CACC that services it.

In fairness, these communication centres are very complex and expensive to run and operate, but for whatever reason, the ministry has more or less just not kept up with technology and industry standard business processes, he said.

I wouldn t want to alarm anybody. Ninety-nine per cent of the time the calls are handled appropriately and in a timely manner, said Sage. But there is a risk that when there s problems in the communication centre, they can and frequently do result in delays to calls.

Those delays don t typically impact on patient safety or patient outcome, but there certainly is a potential there that should something untoward in the communications centre, there could be a delay to a call,

added Sage.

The region report indicates the MOHLTC has agreed to a request from Halton and Peel Regions to give priority to the Mississauga CACC for the implementation of new technology, which the ministry says is currently in the works.

The Mississauga CACC was identified as an early adopter site in implementing new enhancements that will improve the dispatching of ambulance and paramedic resources. One of these enhancements is the new medical triage algorithm using internationally proven standards that will be implemented in the Mississauga CACC in 2017-18, wrote the MOHLTC in an emailed response to the IFP.

In addition to the implementation of the medical triage algorithm and broader enhancements across the province, the ministry and the Halton Region Paramedic Services continue to work collaboratively to ensure patients receive timely high-quality emergency health services.

In the meantime, the region says the situation and its concerns haven t changed much since 2002.

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Blues Bands @ Nashville North Smoke Wagon Blues Band. DAYFOOT, & Pepper the Crow

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