



October 6, 2016

Dear Friends,

Re: Introduction of Legislation to Amend the *Aggregate Resources Act*

I am writing to inform you of the introduction of a bill to amend the *Aggregate Resources Act* in the Ontario legislature on October 6, 2016. The proposed bill is the foundation of our plan to modernize and strengthen Ontario's framework for managing aggregate resources.

In fall 2015, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, through an Environmental Registry posting, consulted on proposed changes through a document called 'A Blueprint for Change: a proposal to modernize and strengthen the Aggregate Resources Act policy framework'.

The proposals described in the Blueprint were developed in consideration of the recommendations from the Standing Committee and input from fall 2014 discussions with stakeholders, Indigenous communities and organizations. The comments and the recommendations received were considered in the development of this proposed Bill. This information will also be considered in the development of future changes to regulations and policy.

The proposed bill is the first step in a phased process that will modernize and strengthen the way aggregate operations are managed in Ontario. Should the bill pass, Ontario would move forward with public consultations on any future proposed regulatory and policy changes under the revised act, including future proposals related to changes to fees and royalties.

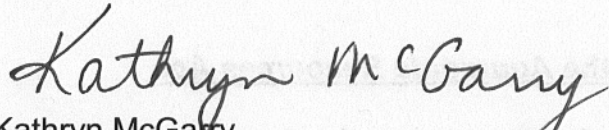
The changes proposed to the legislation provide the framework for stronger oversight in the management of aggregate operations, increased and equalized fees and royalties, enhanced environmental accountability, and improved information on operations and enhanced public participation.

The bill to amend the *Aggregate Resources Act* is available on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website (www.ontla.on.ca) and has also been posted on the Environmental Registry (www.ontario.ca/environmentalregistry, posting number 012-8443) for public consultation for a period of 60 days ending on December 5, 2016. We welcome feedback on the legislative changes proposed. Alternatively, written comments can be sent to ARAreview@ontario.ca.

If you have any questions about the introduction of the bill, please contact Pauline Desroches, Manager, Resource Development Section, at 705-755-2140 or Pauline.Desroches@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this initiative. I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Best,



Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry