

June 24, 2019

Hon. John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Whitney Block 6th Floor Rm 6630
99 Wellesley St W
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3
minister.mnrf@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Yakabuski,

Professional Geoscientists Ontario (PGO) plays a key role in the province's aggregate sector as well as supporting the government's efforts to modernize the Aggregate Resources Act. As such, we appreciated the opportunity to meet with members of your staff to discuss this important issue. In follow-up to that discussion, I wanted to provide specific recommendations to modernize and strengthen the Act in a way that promotes both economic development and greater protection of the public.

We are mandated through the Professional Geoscientist Act, 2000 (PGA) to serve and protect the public by regulating the practice of geoscience in Ontario. Geoscience expertise provides quantitative evidence-based input to the characterization of soils, rocks, aggregates, water, ecosystems, watersheds, and sites, as well as the identification of contamination or disturbances to ecosystems, and the proposal of mitigation strategies and remediation strategies. It is critical that decisions in these areas are made by licensed professionals.

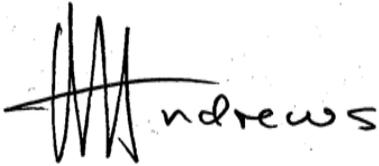
The PGO believes that science-based policy must be the cornerstone of a modern Aggregate Resources Act to ensure both effective resource management as well as public confidence and protection.

To achieve that goal, PGO recommends that the updated regulations include provisions to mandate the use of Qualified Persons (QPs) as defined in the PGA to fulfill requirements in the Act in connection with application and permit approvals, reviews, or any other decisions that may impact the public.

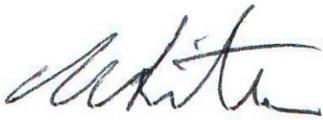
The use of Qualified Persons at all levels of the aggregate industry, includes dependable resource calculations and groundwater impacts, through to responsible extraction and remediation practices. This will result in cost savings and economic growth by removing obstacles and achieving greater efficiency in a way that protects the public and the natural environment. The use of QPs ensures the public is always protected through permitting and application decisions founded on science-based principles applied by experts accountable to a self-regulatory organization.

PGO would be happy to meet to further discuss our proposal to protect the public through ensuring the inclusion of QPs in any updated regulations pertaining to the Aggregate Resources Act. We look forward to the opportunity to work collaboratively with government as the development of regulations proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The first part of the signature consists of several vertical, slightly wavy lines of varying heights, resembling a stylized 'A' or a series of vertical strokes. To the right of these strokes, the word 'ndrews' is written in a cursive, lowercase font.

Tony Andrews
CEO, Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (PGO)

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive, lowercase font. The signature appears to be 'Milan Situm'.

Milan Situm
President, Professional Geoscientists of Ontario (PGO)

Cc Jake Sikora, Senior Policy Advisor and Stakeholder Relations, Office of the Minister