

**Ontario Introduces Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act**

*Legislation Would Balance Environmental Protection with Economic Growth and Modernize Mining Claims*

**NEWS**

October 6, 2016

Ontario has introduced legislation that would modernize the management of resource extraction in the province to help increase growth and competitiveness in the mining sector and improve environmental accountability and oversight in the aggregates industry.

The Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act, if passed, would create a modern framework to help aggregate companies and communities across the province to continue building roads, hospitals, schools and other vital infrastructure projects with these resources by:

- Better outlining and overseeing regulations for aggregate companies
- Updating fees and royalties on aggregates to ensure fairness to companies while supporting communities
- Increasing public participation in the extraction application process

The legislation would also enhance environmental accountability in the aggregates sector by balancing economic growth and job creation with the protection of vital resources like farmland, groundwater and air.

In the mining industry, the bill, if passed, would enhance the province's global competitiveness by allowing claims to be made online and improving how claims are registered through the modernization of the electronic mining lands administration system. Online claims registration would also make boundaries more precise.

These changes would boost growth and competitiveness in Ontario's mining sector by making it easier to prospect, register claims and conduct exploratory mining.

Strengthening and modernizing the management of Ontario's natural resources is part of our plan to create jobs, grow the economy and help people in their everyday lives.

**QUOTE**

"Aggregate resources are used to build our roads, schools and hospitals and as Ontario makes the largest infrastructure investment in this province's history there is an ongoing need for this important resource. The proposed bill would create a modern regulatory framework for aggregate resources, and help companies and communities benefit from this important resource as we continue building these vital infrastructure projects."

— Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

"Ontario is continuing to modernize the Mining Act to ensure that we remain a global leader in mineral exploration and development. If passed, the Aggregate Resource and Mining Modernization Act will enable the province to implement a contemporary and efficient system to register mining claims." — Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines

**QUICK FACTS**

- The Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act will make amendments to modernize both the Aggregate Resources Act and Mining Act.
- Aggregate resources include sand, gravel, clay, earth and rock extracted from pits and quarries.
- Ontario's population is expected to grow by 4.2 million people by 2041. The infrastructure needed for this growth requires aggregate resources.
- The majority of Ontario's aggregate is used for public works projects such as roads, schools and hospitals.
- In 2015, Ontario's mining sector supported 26,000 direct jobs, 50,000 additional jobs in processing and manufacturing, and produced \$10.8 billion in minerals.
- The amendments to the Mining Act support [Ontario's Mineral Development Strategy](#).

## LEARN MORE

Comment on the amendments to the ARA [\[Link to the ER posting\]](#)

[Aggregate Resources](#)

[Find Pits and Quarries Online](#)

[Ontario Mining Act](#)

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