

August 28, 2020

**Subject: Amendments to Ontario Regulation 244/97 and the Aggregates of Ontario
Provincial Standards under the *Aggregate Resources Act***

Dear Ontario Heads of Council and Clerks,

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry hosted a 93-day consultation period on the Environmental Registry regarding changes to Ontario Regulation 244/97 under the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA) to improve the way aggregates are managed and support the growth of the province's communities. We received hundreds of comments from a variety of sources including industry, municipalities, agricultural, environmental and community groups, Indigenous communities and partners, and members of the general public.

I am writing today to notify you that after carefully considering all the feedback received, the provincial government is moving forward with a number of amendments to Ontario Regulation 244/97 under the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA). These regulatory changes will ensure we maintain a steadfast commitment to protecting the environment and managing impacts to communities while reducing unnecessary administrative requirements and creating opportunities for growth.

The ministry is implementing these changes in phases: some will come into effect September 1, 2020, while others will follow on April 1, 2021. Changes affecting existing operations will come into effect January 1, 2022. Existing standards will remain in effect until such time as they are replaced by those changes coming into effect in regulations.

A summary providing more detail regarding these changes can be found on the Environmental Registry (ERO# 019-1303 – <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1303>). We encourage you to review the notice, regulation and Standards for more information. If you have any questions about the changes to the regulation or the Provincial Standards, please email the ministry at aggregates@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Keyes
Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Pauline Desroches, Resources Development Section