

Tue 2/25/2020 2:28 PM Message from the Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-2301

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6630
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-2301



354-2019-2226

February 25, 2020

Mr. George Bridge
Chair
Board of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
c/o sylvia.muir@wdgpublichealth.ca

Dear Mr. Bridge:

Thank you for sending your comments in support of the important role of municipalities in protecting drinking water resources. Bill 132, the *Better for People, Smarter for Business Act* passed on December 10, 2019, and along with it, changes to the *Aggregate Resources Act*.

The change clarifies the provincial role regarding how deep aggregate extraction activities can go. Applications for new aggregate sites will continue to require consideration of impacts to surface and ground water resources, including municipal drinking water sources.

Municipalities will continue to review any aggregate site proposals as part of their local planning roles and responsibilities, and in their role under the *Aggregate Resources Act* in reviewing applications. Municipal comments and objections will continue to play a significant role in influencing decisions under the *Aggregate Resources Act*. To ensure this, we have made legislative changes to allow for concerns to now be referred to a hearing at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) if the aggregate operator is not able to address them during the application process.

We are committed to further consultation on the regulatory proposals outlined in the Environmental Registry posting (<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-0556>) and in ensuring Ontario is open for business while providing environmental protection and mitigation of potential community impacts resulting from aggregate operations.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon
Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Randy Pettapiece, MPP, Perth-Wellington
Mike Schreiner, MPP, Guelph
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health
Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO of WDGPH