

Memorandum

To: Mayor Steele and Members of Council
From: Councillor Wells
Date: April 26, 2022
Re: Motion to request a temporary moratorium on all aggregate extraction license applications in Ontario

Mayor Steele and Members of Council,

I gave notice of this motion at the April 12, 2022, Regular Council Meeting and I am providing the following information and motion for consideration and Council approval.

Whereas the City is comprised of 12,196 hectares of land with approximately 14% or 1,778 hectares identified as Mineral Aggregate and total farmland in the Niagara Region has decreased by 2.1% or 4,660 acres since 2011 and in Port Colborne farmland area in this same period has decreased by 10.7%; and

Whereas the City acknowledges the need to protect the access to strategic mineral aggregate resources and plan for future growth, the City is equally concerned about the potential loss of Prime Agricultural Land from its inventory of good, productive agricultural lands; and

Whereas Ontario currently has over 5,000 licensed pits and quarries located throughout the province that are able to meet the expected near term needs of Ontario's construction industry and growth; and

Whereas applications continue to be submitted without a definitive justification or rationalization for the need of additional supply; and

Whereas aggregate pits and quarries can be destructive and threatening to natural environments such as wood lots, habitats of endangered species and resources such as aquifers as is the case in Port Colborne; and

Whereas pits and quarries can have negative impacts on host communities in terms of noise, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and truck traffic;

- 1. Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Port Colborne hereby respectfully request the Ontario government impose an immediate temporary moratorium on all new aggregate mining applications pending the formation of an independent panel and broad consultation process including First Nations, affected*

communities, independent experts and scientists to chart a new path forward for aggregate mining in Ontario which:

- Proposes criteria and processes for determining the need for new and expansion of aggregate licenses;*
- Recommends updated policies and restrictions for aggregate mining below the water table to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and reflect current groundwater sciences;*
- Develops new guidelines for reprocessing in order to ensure sustainable strategic aggregate supplies;*
- Recommends a fair levy for aggregate mining that includes compensation for the full environmental and infrastructure maintenance costs to the local community of extraction and distribution of aggregate;*
- Provides greater consideration to the input by local municipalities to lessen the impacts from aggregate operations and associated truck traffic through their communities;*
- Proposes revisions to application procedures which fully honour First Nations' treaty rights;*

- 2. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the leaders of all Provincial Parties, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Ted Arnott MPP, AMO, Region of Niagara, Local Regional Area Municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.*

Thank you for your consideration,

Harry Wells
Councillor Ward 4
City of Port Colborne