



**Reform Gravel Mining Coalition warns against new gravel approvals as Auditor General flags continued oversight failures and ongoing crisis in Ontario’s Gravel Mining System**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[TORONTO, ONTARIO], January 14, 2026 - [The Reform Gravel Mining Coalition](#) (RGMC) is calling on the Ontario government to halt approvals for new gravel pits and quarries following the release of the Auditor General’s 2025 follow-up report on the management of aggregate resources.

The report finds that two years after the Auditor General first raised serious concerns about oversight of the sector, most recommended reforms have seen little or no progress. Of the 31 recommendations made in the 2023 audit, only four have been fully implemented, while 10 have seen little or no progress and eight will not be implemented at all, according to the follow-up.

“The Auditor General has once again highlighted serious regulatory failures in how gravel mining is overseen in Ontario,” said Doug Tripp, co-chair of the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition. “Despite clear warnings and recommendations, Ontario continues to approve new gravel pits and quarries while key inspection, enforcement and rehabilitation measures remain incomplete, leaving communities and the environment at risk.”

Among the findings outlined in the report:

- Inspections remain infrequent, inconsistent and poorly documented, with no quality control measures in place.
- Enforcement tools are rarely used, despite ongoing non-compliance across the sector.
- Long-dormant and depleted sites are not being rehabilitated in a timely manner.
- Legacy aggregate sites on Crown land remain unassessed and unrehabilitated.
- The Ministry has not implemented a framework to assess cumulative impacts on communities facing multiple pits and quarries.

These findings mirror the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's priority concerns raised in 2023. The RGMC's fact sheet identified the following issues as priorities:

- The MNRF is failing to adequately inspect aggregate operations
- Violations are widespread in the aggregate industry and the MNRF is failing to enforce aggregate regulations
- Industry self-reporting is failing
- There is no guarantee of rehabilitation of pits and quarries
- The MNRF current program for managing aggregate resources is financially unsustainable
- The most recent study of aggregate supply and demand indicates a significant oversupply; improved studies are needed to provide accurate and complete information.
- The negative environmental impact of pits and quarries is not being adequately prevented.

The Auditor General also raised concerns about Ontario's understanding of aggregate supply. While updated estimates were released in 2024, the audit notes ongoing limitations and uncertainty in the underlying data, including gaps in information about aggregate quality and recoverability. The report further notes the province has not committed to regular updates or strengthened verification processes to improve the reliability of future supply estimates.

In addition, the province has declined to implement several key reforms that include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing whether aggregate fees cover the true cost of inspections and enforcement
- Establishing regular updates to aggregate supply-and-demand data
- Advancing policies to track and support the use of recycled aggregate.

"These are not technical gaps, they are policy choices," Tripp said. "Approving new pits and quarries without fixing inspections, enforcement, rehabilitation and data transparency simply shifts long-term costs onto municipalities, taxpayers and local residents. The data shows that there are enough existing pits and quarries across the province. The responsible course of action is to stop approving new pits and quarries and fix the system first."

RGMC is urging the provincial government to impose an immediate moratorium on new aggregate approvals until the Auditor General's recommendations are fully implemented and a regulatory system is in place that prioritizes community protection, environmental integrity and responsible resource management.

The coalition is also calling on municipalities and residents to oppose new gravel mining applications and pass resolutions demanding provincial reform.

For more information please contact: [campaign@reformgravelmining.ca](mailto:campaign@reformgravelmining.ca)

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**About the RGMC:**

[The Reform Gravel Mining Coalition](#) unites residents' groups to demand the Ontario government take the actions necessary to protect public health, the environment, and democratic rights from the devastating impacts of Ontario's gravel mining industry.