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Ford government spends Earth Day in private meeting with gravel mining industry
Ford government promises 'working group' will continue meetings after election

The Ford government has invited representatives of the gravel mining and cement industries to attend a private virtual meeting on Earth Day (Friday, April 22) to discuss the “challenges and/or barriers that the aggregate industry continues to face.” ([See Agenda: Aggregate Industry Check-In](#))

This private meeting is happening as more municipalities pass resolutions endorsing a moratorium, a temporary pause, on all new gravel mining approvals in Ontario, proposed by the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition.

Municipalities, who have a number of concerns with gravel mining that the Ontario government has so far failed to address, are not invited to participate in the so-called ‘Working Group’. Municipalities have important concerns about gravel mining that require urgent attention including unjustified low property tax assessments, the lack of municipal control over the impacts these sites have, and now the prospect that gravel mines may become large scale soil dumps.

“One of the first things the Ford government did was to hold a ‘secret summit’ in the spring of 2019 with the gravel mining industry.” said Graham Flint, spokesperson with the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition, “That meeting was the start of a number of changes requested by the industry, such as the limiting of the role of Conservation Authorities, the erosion of the Endangered Species Act, and removal of some of the few tools municipalities had to deal with gravel mining in their jurisdictions.

“A new round of concessions to the gravel mining industry could further endanger groundwater, farmland, wetlands and the natural environment. A moratorium on new gravel mining approvals is necessary to stop the ‘behind closed door relationship’ between the industry and this government, and start an independent review process that includes municipalities, affected communities, Indigenous Nations and independent scientists and experts” added Flint.

The invitation to attend the working group was circulated by Andrew Ogilivie, Manager Resource Development Section, Andrew.ogilivie@ontario.ca 705 761 5815