

Jones introduces Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones used Earth Day (April 22) to introduce a private member's bill, the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act, 2013.

Jones maintained the timing of the bill was no accident. She believes the legislation would be an effective measure to encourage aggregate recycling in Ontario by eliminating barriers to recycled aggregates being considered for use in public sector construction across the province.

“During the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) review last year, we consistently heard that more recycled aggregate should be used in Ontario,” Jones said.

She pointed to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) which, in its maintenance and construction of provincial highways, has achieved an aggregate recycling rate of up to 19.8 per cent. This is in stark comparison to the rest of the province, where the recycling rate hovers around seven per cent.

In the preamble of the bill, Jones stated residents expect the government to take a leadership role in balancing the relationship between primary (virgin) aggregate extraction and secondary (recycled) aggregate, as the recycling contributes to preserving the environment. She added residents expect the government to conduct business in a sustainable way that is both operationally and economically viable.