

REQUEST OF COUNCIL, March 18, 2025

Gina McDonnell

There has been a growing concern about the aggregate industry in our community and in all of Ontario. More and more communities are speaking out, being heard and taking action, we need to do our part too.

Much has happened since I last presented to Council in August of 2023 asking for the implementation of an Interim Control By-Law (ICBL) to give us time to do studies around our aggregate strategies. At the time Council wanted to wait until the conclusion of Huron County's Aggregate Strategy Review.

In December, 2023 the Auditor General published a Value-for-Money Audit of the Management of the Aggregate Resources https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR_mgmtaggregates_en23.pdf

This audit confirms our worst fears about the aggregate industry in Ontario, please refer to Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's (RGMC) Auditor General Report Fact Sheet (*Appendix 1*), which outlines the results of the audit and includes the Auditor General's recommendations.

Among the recommendations was for the MNRF to "update detailed data on industry supply and demand" (#10), resulting in October, 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources published an Aggregate Supply and Demand Study Report <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-10/mnr-pd-executive-summary-aggregate-supply-demand-study-en-2024-10-17-v2.pdf>

This study showed that in the Golden Horseshoe area alone, there is a 6.2 billion tonne reserve that can fulfill current construction rates for the next 38 years without licensing any further sites. Please refer to RGMC's MNRF Study on Aggregate Supply and Demand Fact Sheet (*Appendix 2*), which outlines the study's findings.

In January, 2025 the County of Huron introduced its Update to the County Aggregate Strategy - Planning for Aggregate Resources in Huron County <https://dlta4e77mh8e8.cloudfront.net/huroncounty/5970b3be-a6bf-11ef-8260-0266fc1e3079-236e0101-b731-47e7-aaa5-9d279513d9a4-1735929581.pdf> and Update Report <https://d2wxwk5ilzon84.cloudfront.net/huroncounty/94cfcf49c0939b0030ecfc8a3c3ec71a0.pdf> This is the document that ACW Council was waiting for before making any next-step plans.

The updates recommended by the review deal primarily with mapping, there are also some best practices and communications recommendations. I believe there is so much more we can and should be doing.

We have 3 key resources that need protection:

- 1. Farmland:** It's who we are and what we do.
- 2. Air:** Clean air is essential to our health.
- 3. Water:** Clean water is essential to our environment, our health and our farms.

1. From 2021 to 2024 farmland loss in Ontario has more than doubled, it is now at 319 acres a day.

As **Dr. Wayne Caldwell** pointed out in his presentation before the Huron County Federation of Agriculture (HCFA) in November, 2023, we live in the bread basket of the world, at the current rate of global warming we could be feeding the entire world in as soon as 25 years. Protecting our farmland is crucial, it's our responsibility to ourselves and to the world.

While urbanization and development are the prime threats to farmland in Ontario, in Huron County, especially in ACW, we are losing more farmland to aggregate extraction than anything else. There's been a very significant rise in pits in ACW since 2001, especially in Colborne Ward, please refer to graphs on pages 7/8 and 8/9 of the Planning for Aggregate Resources in Huron County <https://dlta4e77mh8e.cloudfront.net/huroncounty/5970b3be-a6bf-11ef-8260-0266fc1e3079-236e0101-b731-47e7-aaa5-9d279513d9a4-1735929581.pdf>

2. The **Town of Caledon's** ICBL allowed them the time to do several studies, many of which we can now take advantage of. Using the results of these studies, on October 7, 2024 they **passed an amendment to their Official Plan (OP)** [https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/93e40d4b77c96d319e47152d6e6928f5a8f0d5ec/original/1729618154/ee30214ee68a9c0f74e20a5b5f205b6e_By-Law No 2024-082 - _OPA 1 ACCESSIBLE.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIA4KKNQAKIFWFOUYFI%2F20250307%2Fca-central-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20250307T211538Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=cfe9c0fdae1632cc791c4a85d39c925a362b6ae02198cfe6a4e770cf042aead0](https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/93e40d4b77c96d319e47152d6e6928f5a8f0d5ec/original/1729618154/ee30214ee68a9c0f74e20a5b5f205b6e_By-Law%20No%202024-082_-_OPA%201_ACCESSIBLE.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIA4KKNQAKIFWFOUYFI%2F20250307%2Fca-central-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20250307T211538Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=cfe9c0fdae1632cc791c4a85d39c925a362b6ae02198cfe6a4e770cf042aead0)

Air quality played a big role in Caledon's OP Amendment. It has been confirmed that the dust emitted from pits and quarries contains multiple pollutants including particulate matter less than 10 microns in size ("PM10") and particulate matter less than 2.5 in size ("PM2.5") which are known carcinogens. These particulate matters are so small that they are invisible to the eye and there is no safe level of these pollutants in the ambient air. [https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/what-makes-air-unhealthy/particle-pollution#:~:text=Long%2Dterm%20\(months%20to%20years,disease%20and%20cause%20premature%20deaths.&text=Short%2Dterm%20exposure%2C%20such%20as,hours%20to%20days%2C%20can%20kill.](https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/what-makes-air-unhealthy/particle-pollution#:~:text=Long%2Dterm%20(months%20to%20years,disease%20and%20cause%20premature%20deaths.&text=Short%2Dterm%20exposure%2C%20such%20as,hours%20to%20days%2C%20can%20kill.)

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Air Quality Standards updated its air quality standard for both PM2.5 and PM10 emissions in 2021 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240034228>

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment has not updated the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particulate matter since 2012. The province of Ontario has no standard for PM2.5 or PM10.

Of special interest in the Town of Caledon's Amendment:

"pg 8/18 - 20.5 Applications for New Mineral Aggregate Extraction

In addition to the other policies of this Plan (without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this includes Part D: Natural Environment System, Parks and Open Space), the following policies shall apply to the review of applications for new mineral aggregate extraction (and, where

possible, the review and update of existing Aggregate Resources Act licences) to ensure the cumulative effects of mineral aggregate extraction are identified and considered so that extraction is undertaken in a manner that avoids, or if not possible minimizes or mitigates, social, economic and environmental impacts to the maximum extent possible and seeking to ensure that they are operated in accordance with best practices.”

pg 16/26 - 20.5.9 Operational Design, Air Quality, and Land Use Compatibility

- *b) Adverse effects from noise, vibration, odour (where applicable), dust, and air pollutants shall be avoided, or, where avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated to objective standards that provide the greatest protection to human health and the natural environment.*

- *c) For greater certainty, the World Health Organization standards for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ shall apply for Section 20.5.9(b).*

- *d) The Town shall require air quality monitoring as part of approving new mineral aggregate extraction, including a triangulation approach of upwind-downwind measurement.*

The City of Burlington followed suit, passing their own motion January 28, 2025 (Appendix 3); and on February 19, 2025 Halton Region (Appendix 4) did as well. We can use these motions as templates for a motion of our own.

3. 4.6 billion litres of water are approved for use by the gravel mining industry every single day (MNR’s Aggregate Supply and Demand Study). The rise in numbers of pits in ACW, many of which are below the water table, create added concern for our water.

The Town of Caledon has included water resources in their recent amendment:

“pg 15/25 - 20.5.7 Water Resources

- *a) Any proposal for new mineral aggregate extraction shall identify all sources of water, their functions, and analyze and assess the impact of the application to satisfactorily demonstrate that the quality and quantity of each of those water resources shall be protected, improved or restored, with no negative impacts, including negative impacts on public health and safety, by providing the following information:*
 - *i) The quantity and quality of mineral aggregate resource located below the water table (if applicable).*

 - *ii) The removal of the mineral aggregate resource and the subsequent rehabilitation of the lands will satisfy the applicable performance measures in*

Sections 15 and 20.5.3 of this Plan.

- *iii) Measures to protect water resources will be implemented in the design and operation of fuel storage and handling systems, machinery storage and servicing and the use and storage of potential contaminants on the site. The storage of fuel and other potential contaminants on-site may be restricted if necessary to protect water resources.*
- *iv) An appropriate monitoring program will be implemented, and that the results of this monitoring program will be provided to the Town.*

- *b) For dewatering, it is encouraged that water remain on site within the licensed area. Removal of water from the site shall not be permitted.*

- *c) Mineral aggregate extraction shall have no negative impacts on private wells, which shall be considered in a monitoring plan that provides targets and triggers where action is taken to eliminate negative impacts which may include all measures up to and including stopping active extraction.*

- *d) Any water used on-site for operations mitigation and management, as well as stormwater collected on site, shall be captured and treated to an appropriate standard prior to release back into the environment.”*

The Town of Caledon included a section in their OP amendment on data sharing, transparency and reporting which reflects many of the Auditor General’s recommendations (*Appendix 1*). I believe this section shows initiative, forward thinking and should be included in the Provincial Policy Statements (PPS) as well as all OPs:

pg 24/34 - 20.7.2 Data Sharing, Transparency and Report Production

- *a) An Aggregate Monitoring Report shall be provided to Council on mineral aggregate matters in Caledon, at least once every two years, reporting on:*
 - *i) The number and status of licences, including any changes in status.*

 - *ii) An overview of active extractive operations in Caledon, including the total area under extraction, the amount of aggregate produced, and (if known) the primary destinations of these products.*

 - *iii) Records of any complaints on mineral aggregate extraction operations and the transportation of aggregate products during the reporting period.*

- *iv) Records of any violations of site plan or conditions of licence under the Aggregate Resources Act and their status during the reporting period.*
 - *v) Status of the implementation of approved rehabilitation plans.*
 - *vi) Status of the operation and implementation of approved adaptive management plans.*
 - *vii) An assessment of the cumulative impact of extractive operations on the Town's Natural Features and Areas.*
 - *viii) Any updates or data on monitoring work (such as air quality and ground water monitoring).*
 - *ix) Updates on any active and potential applications for new mineral aggregate extraction or amendments to licences.*

 - *b) The Town will conduct such studies and address as it considers appropriate the cumulative effects of the establishment and expansion of aggregate extraction operations on the Town's communities, natural environment, and cultural features.*
 - *c) Any conditions related to monitoring shall ensure frequent, open access to the Town, or, if not practical, at regularly scheduled intervals.*
 - *d) The Town shall request copies of Aggregate Resources Act compliance reports as part of applications for new mineral aggregate extraction. The Town shall also request the same for existing mineral aggregate extraction operations when necessary.*
 - *e) The Town shall maintain a review protocol that helps the public and applicants understand how reviews of applications shall be undertaken, to provide greater clarity and transparency on how the process is undertaken, and to demonstrate how progress on reviews is made.*
-

I respectfully ask the Township of ACW to join the 20 other municipalities in Ontario that have signed RGMC's campaign **"demanding a moratorium on all new approvals for gravel mining in Ontario including interim orders and site plan amendments for mining below the water table or that increase licensed tonnages. The purpose of a moratorium is to allow time to conduct a broad consultation process to chart a new path forward. The consultation must include Indigenous Nations, affected communities independent experts and scientists. It is imperative that we:**

- **Protect farmland, groundwater, and threatened species**
- **Increase the weight of local perspectives in land use planning**
- **Ensure long term supply of gravel, which is a finite resource**
- **Honour treaties with Indigenous Nations and obligations as prescribed in the Canadian Constitution and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- **Prevent greater climate chaos"**

Municipalities that have signed on are: Springwater (November 30), Ramara Township (May 17), Mulmur (May 5), Oro-Medonte (April 27), Amaranth (April 6), Zorra (April 6), North Shore (April 6), Wilmot (March 28), Caledon (March 24), Woolwich (March 23), Peel Region (March 23), Cambridge (March 22), Milton (March 21), Puslinch (March 3), North Dumfries (February 21), Halton Hills (February 7)

Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC) <https://www.reformgravelmining.ca>

DAMN Campaign overview: https://assets.nationbuilder.com/themes/61d345a84445ea3165f59cc2/attachments/original/1646697122/rgmc_policy_brief_jan23.pdf

A very helpful resource for ACW Council would be to join TAPMO: <https://www.tapmo.ca>

A member of Council would be selected to represent ACW at TAPMO meetings, allowing them to share concerns, ideas and action plans with their peers. With 139 pits in Huron County, 55 in ACW, we are most definitely a top aggregate producing municipality.

<https://openaggregates.ca/>

https://www.lioapplications.lrc.gov.on.ca/Pits_And_Quarries/index.html?viewer=Pits_and_Quarries.Pits_and_Quarries&locale=en-CA

"The Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities of Ontario (TAPMO) have joined together to work with industry partners and provincial decision makers to developing a sustainable plan for aggregate extraction."

29 Member municipalities include: County of Brant, City of Burlington, City of Kawartha Lakes, Town of Caledon, Township of Erin, Town of Halton Hills, Town of Milton, Town of Mono,

Township of Brock, Township of Chatsworth, Township of East Garafraxa, Township of Guelph/ Eramosa, Township of Loyalist, Township of Puslinch, Township of Severn, Township of Southgate, Township of South-West Oxford, Township of Springwater, Township of Uxbridge, Township of Woolwich, Township of Zorra, County of Wellington, Municipality of Mississippi Mills, Township of Pro Medonte, Municipality of West Grey, County of Lennox and Addington, Town of Lincoln, Town of Minto.

I am strongly encouraging Council to enact the following:

- 1. Adopt the WHO standards for ambient air and consider making our Official Plan more robust around water resources, data sharing and transparency**
- 2. Join 20 other municipalities and sign RGMC's DAMN Campaign**
- 3. Become a member of TAPMO**

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for your time,

Gina McDonnell

Benmiller, Colborne Ward, Township of ACW

APPENDIX 1 - Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC) December 2023

Fact Sheet: The Auditor General's Report on Gravel Mining in Ontario

On December 6, 2023, the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario published a Value-for-Money Audit of the Management of the Aggregate Resources in the province. The audit evaluated the oversight, licensing and permitting of aggregate extraction on both Crown and designated private land by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), through a review of information from representative district offices during the period from 2018 to 2022. This fact sheet summarizes the audit's main findings and recommendations.

Findings:

The MNR is failing to adequately inspect aggregate operations

- Rates of MNR inspection are shockingly low, with 75% of the offices reviewed inspecting less than 5% of aggregate operations in their district annually
- Inspection rates decreased 64% under the Ford Government
- There is a systemic shortage of qualified aggregate inspectors

Violations are widespread in the aggregate industry

- Of the low percentage of sites inspected, 48 - 64% were not compliant with regulations
- From 2018 to 2022, inspectors filed 1,750 inspection reports identifying non-compliance

The MNR is failing to enforce aggregate regulations

- Of the low percentage of violations reported, less than 1% were referred for further investigation that could lead to a charge *1
- From 2018 to 2022, the number of outstanding violations grew 74%, to a total of almost 1,700

Industry self-reporting is failing

- 25% of the approval holders reviewed failed to submit an annual compliance report
- Legislation stipulates that failure to submit a compliance report should result in immediate suspension of operations, but the MNR did nothing to enforce this beyond sending a notification letter
- Nearly 15% of reviewed approval holders that did not submit reports were still operating a year later

There is no guarantee of rehabilitation of pits and quarries

- Government policy regards aggregate extraction as an "interim land use", but in many cases it fundamentally changes and degrades the previous land use
- There are no processes in place to ensure that pits and quarries are rehabilitated, nor to ensure that the rehabilitation that does take place is effective

*1 For example, the audit identified three companies that extracted over 1000% of the permitted volume but were never referred for investigation.

- Pits and quarries amounting to a land area the size of Brampton have sat dormant for 10 or more years with zero rehabilitation efforts

The MNRF's current program for managing aggregate resources is financially and environmentally unsustainable

- The MNRF does not know the cost of its current aggregate management program
- In 2019, annual extraction fees covered only 80% of the program
- Hundreds of approval holders owe the MNRF hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid annual aggregate extraction fees *2
- Low fees incentivize the environmentally destructive mining of "virgin" aggregates rather than encouraging the use of recycled aggregates *3

The most recent study of aggregate supply and demand indicates a significant oversupply; improved studies are needed to provide accurate and complete information

- The MNRF's most recent (2016) supply and demand study suggests that existing reserves in the Greater Golden Horseshoe region were more than adequate to meet future demand
- The MRF's studies of supply and demand are inadequate
- The MNRF's databases are archaic and disorganized

*2 As per the Auditor General, the MNRF does not know the full amount of unpaid annual aggregate extraction fees. At the end of 2022, over 432 aggregate sites had failed to pay annual fees to the MNRF, with 41 of these having paid no fees since 2018. From 2018 - 2022, the MNRF issued only 2 fines (totalling \$1,230) for unpaid fees.

*3 In comparison, the UK has fees that are 41% higher than Ontario's, and a rate of use of recycled aggregates that is more than three times higher.

Recommendations:

The Auditor General presents the following main recommendations:

1. Address serious aggregate inspection staffing and training problems.
2. Require districts to develop and implement inspection plans.
3. Standardize process for filling out inspection records.
4. Review and standardize policies for enforcing compliance, adopting additional enforcement tools, charging interest for overdue fees, and improving fine payments to municipalities.
5. Standardize required compliance reports and enforce suspensions for failure to properly report.
6. Assess the full cost, additional resources needed, and options for fully recovering the cost of the MNRF aggregate management program.
7. Assess sites dormant for 10+ years and ensure they are rehabilitated.

8. Develop and implement procedures for assessing rehabilitation.
9. Make a plan to address lack of rehabilitation on Crown land.
10. Implement processes to obtain, report, and regularly update detailed data on aggregates supply and demand.
11. Implement a system to track and report on the supply and use of recycled aggregate.
12. Implement a plan to establish best practices for and encourage use of recycled aggregate.
13. Work with other agencies to review aggregate applications in view of their negative impacts.
14. Develop a framework for considering cumulative impacts when making decisions on aggregate approvals.
15. Create and implement a system to review and assess self-filed amendments.
16. Integrate all approval and compliance information into the Natural Resources Information Portal in a timely manner.
17. Update the Aggregate Resources Policies and Procedures Manual by 2025.
18. Develop a framework for evaluating MNR's aggregates program and regularly report to public on results of evaluation.

APPENDIX 2 - Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC) November 2024

Fact Sheet: Study on Aggregate Supply and Demand

In October 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources released a report on Aggregate Supply and Demand in Ontario. The report identifies **aggregate reserves in the Greater Golden Horseshoe in excess of 6 billion tonnes**—an amount that can, at current consumption rates, **meet provincial construction needs for the next 38 years** without adding any new pits or quarries. This time period could be further extended with sustainable management practices.

Aggregates are an important resource in Ontario. Yet too many municipalities and their residents have borne the brunt of this industry as the province fails to minimize negative impacts on public health and safety. The MNRF's new supply study reinforces the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's **call for a pause on the approval of new pits and quarries**.

Key takeaways:

Current aggregate reserves will last for 26 to 38 years, without adding new pits or quarries or expanding existing ones.

The study states the average annual consumption of aggregates is projected to increase to 235 million tonnes. At this rate, current reserves will last for 26 years. There is no data to back the industry's claim that consumption will increase. For the past 20 years, Ontario has maintained a steady average consumption rate of 165 million tonnes per year, despite significant increases in population and infrastructure.

At the average rate of consumption, current aggregate reserves will last for 38 years.

The Ministry affirms the conclusion that Ontario's licensed annual capacity for aggregate extraction exceeds demand by a factor of at least 13 times, if not more.

The Ontario GeoHub ALPS database for active aggregate sites shows a total of 5,479 active licences, with a total extraction capacity of 2.04 billion tonnes per year, excluding 812 licences with "unlimited" capacity. Additionally, there are 146 current applications that would add 147 million tonnes to the total, again excluding 11 "unlimited" licences.

At the historic average consumption of 160 million tonnes per year, licensed capacity is much more than 13 times demand, if the 812 unlimited licences are accounted for.

The industry's claim that there is a shortage of high-quality aggregate close to market is unsubstantiated.

Rather, the report states that "better data is needed to understand the availability and distribution of high-quality aggregate required for concrete and asphalt manufacturing."

The province fails to meet the Auditor General’s recommendation to provide accurate data on supply and demand.

In its [2023 audit](#), the AG criticized the Ministry’s current supply study for having “no mechanism to verify the anonymous data, nor a plan to corroborate it through field verification, which could leave the Ministry with potentially inaccurate data.” The province failed to heed the AG’s recommendation to conduct a supply study with verified and corroborated data, instead using the same flawed methodology as the 2009 and 2016 supply reports.

Ontario’s management of aggregate resources ignores and exacerbates climate change.

The aggregate industry is the primary supplier to the cement industry, which is responsible for 8% of the global CO₂ emissions.

Despite this, Ontario increased aggregate production by 23% over the last decade, even as per capita aggregate consumption declined by 12.3%.

The Ministry’s Supply and Demand study fails to consider the need to increase the use of recycled aggregates and aggregate alternatives in order to meet climate change commitments.

APPENDIX 3 - City of Burlington Motion, January 28, 2025

Endorsement for World Health Organization (WHO) Standards for Air Quality Emissions (ADM-03-25)

Whereas the Nelson Aggregates' application for expansion of the Mount Nemo open-pit quarry in the City of Burlington is causing concern for residents of Burlington; and

Whereas northern Burlington, including Mount Nemo, is located within Ontario's Greenbelt and includes the Niagara Escarpment, an UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve; and

Whereas Burlington contains significant areas of prime agricultural land and this farmland is also under threat of development for aggregate extraction now and in the future; and

Whereas pits and quarries emit dust that contains multiple pollutants, including particulate matter less than 10 microns in size ("PM10") and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size ("PM2.5") that are known carcinogens; and

Whereas the Ontario Government has no standard for PM2.5 and has not updated its own interim ambient air quality criterion for PM10 since 1996; and

Whereas the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment has not updated the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards ("CAAQS") for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) since 2012; and

Whereas the World Health Organization (WHO) updated its standard for annual PM2.5 emissions in 2021, nearly five years ago; and

Whereas public health science supports a "no threshold" position on PM2.5 and PM10 - such that there is no safe level of these pollutants in the ambient air; and

Whereas the extraction of aggregate in Burlington will increase the ambient air emissions levels of dust, specifically fine particulate matter such as PM2.5 and PM10; and

Whereas the Town of Caledon recently acted to better protect residents by endorsing the WHO 2021 standard of 5.0 µg/m³ for annual air emissions of PM2.5.

Now therefore be it resolved that Burlington Council endorses the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 standards for air quality emissions and seeks to have all new aggregate extraction activities maintain annual ambient air quality for PM2.5 at no more than 5.0 µg/m³

Be it further resolved that the City Clerk forward the resolution to:

- Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General
- Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources
- Halton MPPs
- Halton Local Municipalities
- Michael Kraljevic, Chair of Ontario Land Tribunal
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario

APPENDIX 4 - Halton Region Motion, February 19, 2025

Moved by: Marianne Meed Ward

Motion, as amended

Seconded by: Good Krantz

WHEREAS mineral aggregate operations (pits and quarries) are currently active and expanding throughout Halton Region in the City of Burlington, Town of Halton Hills and in the Town of Milton;

AND WHEREAS Halton Region contains significant areas of prime agricultural land and is located within Ontario's Greenbelt and includes the Niagara Escarpment, a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve;

AND WHEREAS pits and quarries emit dust that contains multiple pollutants, including particulate matter less than 10 microns in size ("PM10") and particulate matter less than 2.5 in size ("PM2.5") that are known carcinogens;

AND WHEREAS we must recognize the existence of significant emissions that are from the proposed Milton CN intermodal yard and even more so from the 400 highways that run through the Region of Halton;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment has not updated the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards ("CAAQS") for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) since 2012;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government monitors and reports on PM2.5 using the Ontario Ambient Air Quality Standard (OAAQS) which is based on the Canadian Standards (CAAQS) however the Province does not have a standard for PM2.5 or PM10;

AND WHEREAS the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Air Quality Standards provide health-based recommendations for air quality management to decrease risks from exposure to air pollution and are a lower threshold than the Ontario and Canadian standards;

AND WHEREAS the WHO updated its air quality standard for both PM2.5 and PM10 emissions in 2021, nearly five years ago;

AND WHEREAS public health science supports a "no threshold" position on PM2.5 and PM10 such that there is no safe level of these pollutants in the ambient air;

AND WHEREAS the extraction of aggregate from pits and quarries across Halton emits particulate matter and expanding operations will increase the ambient air emissions levels dust, specifically fine particulate matter such as PM2.5 and PM10;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Caledon recently acted to protect residents by endorsing the WHO 2021 standard of 5.0 µg/m³ for annual air emissions of PM2.5;

AND WHEREAS any reduction in PM2.5 and PM10 would result in health benefits, especially for those at greater risk including those with underlying health conditions, older adults and children;

AND WHEREAS on January 28, 2025 Burlington City Council endorsed the use of the WHO 2021 standards for air quality emissions including that the City is seeking to have all new aggregate extraction activities maintain annual ambient air quality for PM2.5 at no more than 5.0 µg/m³.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Halton Regional Council supports the City of Burlington's resolution endorsed January 28, 2025 to further protect the health of Ontarians and Halton's growing community;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General, the Minister of Natural resources, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada, the Chair of the Ontario Land Tribunal, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, Halton's Mpps, Halton's Local Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Mayor Meed Ward requested that a recorded vote be take on the Motion, as amended, and the results are as follows:

Yeas: Carr, Adams, Ali, Bentivegna, Best, Burton, Duddeck, Elgar, Fogal, Galbraith, Haslett-Theall, Ijaz, Kearns, Knoll, Krantz, Lawlor, Malboeuf, Meed Ward, Nanda, Nisan, O'Meara, Sharman, Somerville, Stolte (24).

Nays: None (0).

As a result of the recorded vote, the Motion, as amended **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**