

**HONOURABLE GORDON HOGG
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINING**

**Speaking Notes
Aggregate Producers Association General Meeting**

Date: September 11, 2008

Location: Coast Bastion Inn
11 Bastion Street, Nanaimo

Time: 6:15 pm (Minister to speak at 7:45 pm)

Speech: 10 minutes

INTRODUCTION

- Thank you for that kind introduction.
- And thank you Urvi for your update on the Construction Safety Network and the Workplace Aggregate Safety project.
- I would like to acknowledge the Snuneymuxw First Nation on whose traditional land we are on today.
- I would also like to acknowledge my colleagues Ron Cantelon, Randy Hawes and Leonard Krog. And of course the Chief Inspector of Mines, Doug Sweeney.
- This is my first official meeting with you as Minister of State for Mining, and I am enjoying learning about the industry and meeting the people who make it prosper.
- I take this portfolio very seriously and aim to further build relationships between industry and government to work together to ensure B.C. remains at the forefront as one of the world's most prominent mining regions.

MINING AND AGGREGATES IN B.C.

- According to recent industry reports, the value of the B.C. mining industry in 2007 is reported to be \$6.9 billion, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars in provincial revenue.
- The mining industry also contributes to employment in the province, creating more than 28,000 mining and mineral sector-related jobs in over 50 B.C. communities.
- To build on our robust mining industry, our newly minted Council on Mineral Exploration and Mining met for the first time last week to help identify conditions necessary for the long term success of the mining and aggregates industry in our evolving environment.
- The Council on Mining will build on the successes of the 2005 BC Mining Plan, bringing together key stakeholders – government, First Nations, APABC, and other association and industry representatives – to take a hard look at common issues and interests, to continue to move the industry forward.

- Your representative on the Council is Brad Kohl, your President of APABC.

ISSUES FACING THE AGGREGATES INDUSTRY

- The aggregates industry is vital to our province: it provides the basic material to build our homes, our schools, our hospitals, and pave our roads and sidewalks.
- In fact, British Columbians consume 55 million tonnes of aggregates annually, or an average of 12 tonnes of aggregate for each man, woman and child alone.
- And in building our homes and factories, aggregate producers also generate over 2 billion dollars in economic benefits for the province of B.C. and employ several thousand employees.
- Our need for aggregate is immediate and on going; we use approximately 70 per cent our aggregate simply to maintain our current infrastructure, keeping our buildings and roads safe and structurally sound.
- And we need a steady supply of aggregate to continue to maintain and build our economy.
- But building means dust, noise, heavy trucks on the road, inconvenience...
- And this is what some of those in the public see and don't like.
- But while people object to having gravel pits near their homes, they also don't like heavy trucks on their roadways.
- To build, however, requires aggregate, and if it isn't quarried near the building site, it must be trucked.
- With transportation making up the bulk of the cost for the producer, it makes sense for quarries to be located as near to your market as you can.
- While the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources can approve aggregate operations in needed locations, this can sometimes conflict with local government planning objectives and zoning bylaws.

- And that, as you know all too well, can put aggregate operations at odds with communities and residents right from the start.
- That's why we remain committed to the Fraser Valley Aggregate Pilot Project which was launched to develop a model for a long term provincial aggregate management plan to help resolve these issues.

AGGREGATE PILOT PROJECT

- Our objective is clear: to provide a long term, affordable supply of aggregate for the province of British Columbia, and the resolution of existing conflicts between local government and aggregate producers.
- The building blocks of our cities, towns, and civilization are fundamental.
- To that end, as you know, our Ministry formed a joint committee with the APABC and the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD), which brings together the APABC, the FVRD electoral areas, the ministry, and municipalities.
- The Committee initiated and funded an aggregate inventory to support informed decision-making in creating aggregate zones.
- The resulting report identified major sources of sand and gravel and quarry rock worthy of consideration in planning for aggregate supplies for at least the next 100 years.
- Bringing together local governments, industry and the ministry to discuss the key issues and create a supply planning model is a building process, developing mutual understanding of each party's interests.
- While other groups around the province have shown considerable interest in the work of this committee and put forward their own ideas for a zoning and planning model, I would prefer to see the committee complete their work over the coming fall and winter with recommendations to government.
- While we work towards bridging the gaps between industry, municipalities and the public, our need for aggregates and the noise, dust and inconvenience of a quarry pit next door, it's

clear that although there is no magic answer to solve the issues facing this industry, the Fraser Valley Aggregate Pilot Project will go a long way.

- I realize this Pilot Project has been taking some time and I sincerely want to express my thanks to those of you from the Association who have collectively volunteered your time and ideas on this important project. I am very committed to seeing the work of the Committee through to its completion.

INDUSTRY'S INVOLVEMENT

- We need your help when it comes to addressing the issues from aggregate production in and around our communities.
- As an industry, you must continuously improve your operations, to provide accurate mine plans and reviews.
- And you must do your due diligence when you research all of the requirements for new applications.
- A professional approach is required for public involvement, as well as timely and accurate information to assist the professionals in the ministry do their work.

CONCLUSION

- While we all know the issues facing this industry, working together, building on our progress, and focusing on a long-term aggregate supply planning model is the way to go.
- As the new Minister of State for Mining, I look forward to working together to ensure our vibrant mining sector continues to grow and thrive.
- Thank you.