

Rachel Notley. Fighting for you

Response to Alberta Sand and Gravel Association

Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP are happy to respond to your questions regarding issues of importance to the Alberta Sand and Gravel Association.

Delays in Environmental Application processing at the provincial level is having an impact on aggregate supply. What do you propose to alleviate these delays?

In light of recent regulatory and court decisions, there have been increased demands on the processing and approval of applications within the Ministry of Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP). A re-elected government under the leadership of Rachel Notley is firmly committed to following through on recent actions to reduce processing wait times, including the hiring of additional, dedicated, regulatory processing specialists in AEP.

The current Community Aggregate Payment Levy (CAPL) policy will be expiring at the end of 2022. What are your plans to further expand transparency and accountability of how those funds are spent?

We respect the right of municipalities, under the *Municipal Government Act (MGA)*, to require a Community Aggregate Payment Levy (CAPL). We are mindful that part of the original intent of the CAPL was to demonstrate the value of sand and gravel operations in local communities. We appreciate that it is difficult for the industry to demonstrate that value when monies raised by the CAPL go into a municipalities' general revenue fund. Under the leadership of Rachel Notley, the Government of Alberta achieved its first ever A+ rating from the C.D. Howe Institute for financial transparency. Rachel Notley is proud of this record, and if re-elected, we are committed to further improving financial reporting. As the CAPL policy expires in 2022, a re-elected government under the leadership of Rachel Notley would be pleased to sit down with the ASGA and discuss potential changes that would further improve financial reporting and transparency for the industry and for Albertans.

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Aggregate pits operate very differently from mines. However, current occupational health and safety regulations treat aggregate pits as mines. Will you commit to working with industry to edit regulation to recognize the difference between the two?

Workplace safety is of paramount concern to Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP. We want to make sure every worker makes it home healthy and safe at the end of the day. We will not compromise on safety standards. However, we are open to hearing if current regulations do not adequately address the realities of your industry. We would be happy to sit down with you to discuss the issue.

Governments can be challenged by competing demands of residents and the demand for locally sourced aggregate. How would your party resolve these competing interests?

Balancing the demand for locally sourced aggregate – which reduces costs and creates local employment – with quality of life demands for local residents and businesses is a challenge we appreciate. A re-elected government under the leadership of Rachel Notley would continue with new efforts that are already underway to improve the quality of community consultations (including more robust open-houses) before projects get underway. In addition, we would welcome discussions with members of the ASGA regarding additional policy changes, or technical measures, that could be undertaken to address quality of life concerns while meeting local product demand.