



John

Office of the
Minister

Ministry of the
Environment

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NOV 26 1979

Mr. John Swaigen,
General Counsel,
Canadian Environmental
Law Association,
Suite 303,
One Spadina Crescent,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2J5

Dear Mr. Swaigen:

In your letter of October 4, 1979, you asked whether the Ministry of the Environment had produced any policy circulars as proposed in the White Paper on The Planning Act. You also asked several questions regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources mineral aggregate policy for official plans.

With respect to policy circulars, none have been prepared to date in my Ministry but I do intend to make use of this new planning tool when the new Planning Act is proclaimed. My staff and I strongly support the use of policy circulars to ensure a clearer understanding of the provincial policies that affect official plans. My Ministry will make full and ongoing use of policy circulars when the new Planning Act is proclaimed. When the first policy circulars are drafted, they will be widely circulated and I would be pleased to send you a copy.

The second part of your letter asked about the Ministry of Natural Resources' mineral aggregate policies and environmentally sensitive areas.

The environmentally sensitive areas that are of most concern to me and my Ministry are those related to water quality and quantity, especially wetlands. As I said during our estimates last month, it is my Ministry's policy and my personal opinion that we support very strongly, the preservation of wetlands. This type of environmentally sensitive area can be extremely important in the maintenance of satisfactory water quality and quantity. I would like to point out,

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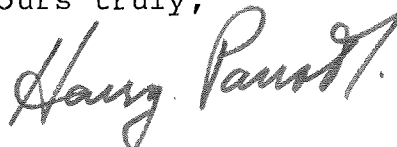
of course, that the primary provincial responsibility for environmentally sensitive areas lies with the Ministry of Natural Resources. My Ministry is very much interested in the disposition of significant natural areas and in trade-offs which will be made on the resource issue of mineral aggregates and environmentally sensitive areas.

I note that the Ministry of Natural Resources, Mineral Aggregate Policy for Official Plans indicates that in the longer term new sources of supply will be available based on long distance transport. The policy also recognizes the importance of environmental costs.

I'm sure that this will preclude the destruction of provincially significant environmentally sensitive areas for short term mineral aggregate needs.

I would suggest that you raise these matters of environmentally sensitive areas and mineral aggregates with my colleague, the Hon. James Auld, Minister of Natural Resources.

Yours truly,



Harry Parrott, D.D.S.,
Minister.

cc: Honourable James A.C. Auld,
Minister of Natural Resources.

Honourable Claude Bennett,
Minister of Housing.