



# Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association

AGM February 26, 2014

## Inert Fill Excess Construction Soil Handling in Ontario

Al Durand



# OSSGA Annual Meeting

February 26, 2014

## Presentation Outline

- Society & Sustainability – Leading by Example
- About RCCAO
- Management of “Inert Fill” – Root Problem
- The Issues Involved
- Other Jurisdictions and Soil Management Approaches
- Three Recommended Approaches
- Soil Management Best Management Practices
- Soil Matching – SOiiL



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## About RCCAO


- Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario
- Composed of Management and Labour Groups
- Represents a Wide Spectrum of the Ontario Construction Industry
- Works with Governments and Related Stakeholders
- Proposes Realistic Solutions to Challenges Facing Construction Industry
- Proposes Solutions that have Wider Societal Benefits
- Conducts Responsible Studies and Reports on Construction Related Issues
- Visit [www.rccao.com](http://www.rccao.com)




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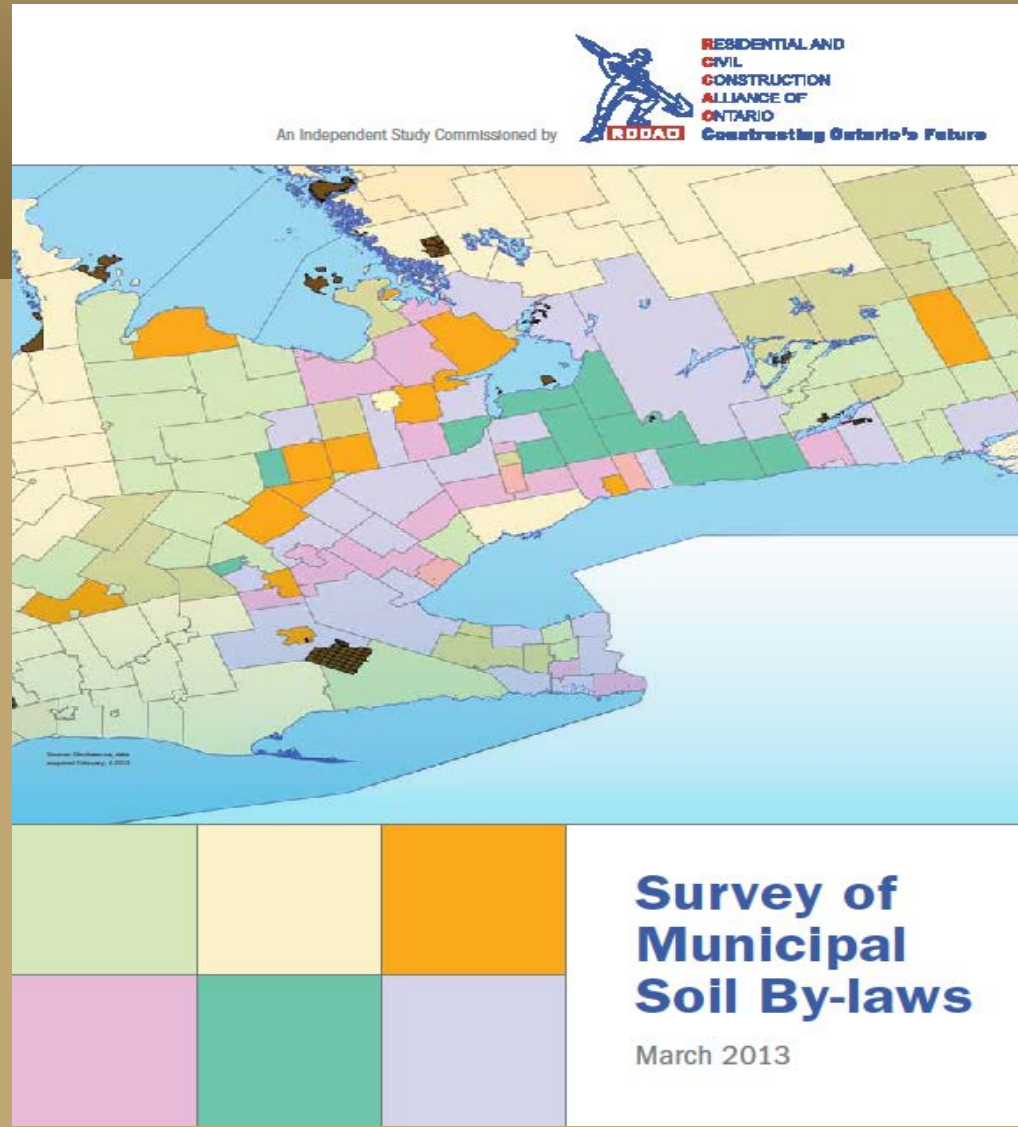
Eglinton LRT Project:  
**Estimated Costs  
and Impacts of  
Addressing Excess  
Construction Soils**





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## Management of “Inert Fill” – Root Problem

- Provincially the issue of handling of excess “clean” soil or “inert fill” has been a regulatory concern since early 1990’s
- Historically the Ontario Ministry of Environment under the EPA is the lead enforcement agency (adverse effect test)
- Clean soil handling a long term regulatory challenge due to focus on waste definitions, public and media stigma issues
- The current regulatory framework does not encourage adoption of new approaches for the sustainable and beneficial re-use of excess soils (landfilling by default)
- Est. Ontario generates 20-25 M cubes of excess fill annually



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## The Issues Involved

- Contaminated site interim guidelines in the 1990's evolved into Brownfield Regulations (O.Reg. 153/04) which established soil quality tables for remedial activities
- Recent Ontario regulatory changes (O.Reg.511/09) have further introduced uncertainties, escalated costs and negatively impacted infrastructure projects – Record of Site Condition
- Current regulatory framework does not support or encourage sustainable soil reuse versus landfilling as a default option





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## The Issues Involved - Continued

- Regulatory uncertainties have resulted in certain dumping practices that have raised local community concerns
- Different levels of government and Conservation Authorities with varying resources and expertise attempting to address issues
- RCCAO municipal soil by-law study results
- Clarington soil exclusion by law example
- City of Toronto proposed staff report on illegal dumping – mandatory Material Management Plan



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## Other Jurisdictions and Soil Management Approaches

- Governments and industry continue to look at other jurisdictions for soil handling approaches – Holland, Belgian, United Kingdom, other provinces (sustainability drivers)
- Solutions are “process” focused with active engagement of local governments at municipal, community level
- Development of new technology approaches encouraged through coordination (regulators, industry, academics)
- Beneficial soil reuse based on matching source sites with projects and sites that require clean soil supported by networks of soil recycling centre's.



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## Three Recommended Approaches

- (1) Clear policy direction, coordinated approach across ministries, with active stakeholder participation in a timely manner (Managing Process)
- (2) In absence of formal regulations, promote adoption and implementation of responsible best management codes of practices – “better regulation” approach
- (3) Government support to implement soil recycling centres or temporary soil banks, develop model municipal soil by-laws and encourage soil matching initiatives



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**Best Management  
Practices for  
Handling Excess  
Construction Soils  
in Ontario**

Version 1



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## Soil Best Management Practices

- RCCAO Best Management Practices for Handling Excess Construction Soils in Ontario – Version 1 (November 2012)
  - Companion document designed to address “gaps” in MOE Management of Excess Soil – A Guide for Best Management Practices (January, 2014)
  - Based on successful approach used in the UK- Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice (CoP)
  - Recognized by regulators as “Better Regulation” approach
  - Fundamentals of the Process described



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# SOiilL

Supporting Ontario Infrastructure Investments and Lands



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## Soil Matching - SOiiL

- SOiiL – Supporting Ontario Infrastructure Investments and Lands
- Outcome recommendation of RCCAO excess construction soils stakeholder workshop held in September 2012
- Based on recent successful Register of Materials Soil Matching database in the UK
- SOiiL launched October 22, 2013
- Currently a free service to match soil donors with soil receiving sites requiring soil
- With outreach to municipalities and industry, we are aiming to make a dent in the “dig and dump” approach