

It is my (Heather Erickson) opinion that private industry should not be participating in municipal Zoning By-law changes as there is potential for Conflict of Interest. Municipal restrictions on aggregate removal might negatively affect the interests of private pit owners and operators. Further it has been Springfield's experience that pit and quarry operations are NOT good neighbours as they have NOT been compliant with the current regulations, pits no longer in use have NOT been properly rehabilitated, and some operators have been derelict in paying their fees to the RM of Springfield.

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SPRINGFIELD, MAN.—The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) is eager to review and participate in zoning bylaw changes that could impact the supply of aggregates that are critical for construction work.

The association stated it is currently reviewing changes to the Rural Municipality of Springfield's zoning bylaw and intends to participate in the municipality's virtual open house and two draft secondary plans in May.

"The industry is very engaged and interested in the zoning bylaw updates and changes, as they can influence the development of aggregate operations," MHCA president Chris Lorenc told the association's executive committee at its meeting April 28. "We're there to show that we are a willing partner in the need for clear and workable rules around development. Pit and quarry operations are good neighbours within the communities where they are located, operating within provincial regulations and municipal rules."

The group's executive committee has also chosen members to sit on a City of Winnipeg working group to help establish principles and objectives for a proposed social procurement policy, and on a panel appointed by the provincial government for review of the Construction Industry Wages Act.

Lorenc also noted the group continues to work with Manitoba Infrastructure (MI) releasing an annual and five-year highways capital program, an annual review by MI and industry of the program, as well as discussing program balance to ensure the various elements of the industry are active and bidding on project tenders.

The MHCA also announced it has appointed Jackie Jones to take on an expanded role relating to industry workforce diversification. Jones, MHCA's current education and training advisor, will now take on the new title of education and diversity programs adviser.

"This formalizes Jackie's responsibilities and also places greater priority on the numerous programs and initiatives our industry has worked on for a number of years to draw in more individuals from under-represented groups in the community," Lorenc explained. <https://canada.constructconnect.com/joc/news/associations/2021/05/manitoba-builders-working-to-protect-aggregate-supply>