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Ontario Dump Truck Association

Meeting with MTO/MOL –December 16th, 2014

MTO Ministers Boardroom 3rd Floor Ferguson Block

The Ontario Dump Truck Association was formed July 17, 2007 to advocate for the rights of those in the Dump Truck Industry. Since then, members of the ODTA have been left without a voice and have been targeted by stakeholders, contractors and others for wanting to secure the safety of drivers, workers and the general public. Gentlemen like our president, Baljit Singh, have been refused from entering job sites and have had to shut their businesses down because they were denied work for speaking up about concerns for their safety.

Since March 15, 2014, the industry of dump truck owners and operator's came together to reform this association and we brought back Mr. Baljit Singh who had been a strong advocate for safety in our workplaces. The ODTA has been collectively working together to bring the important issues of safety to the forefront of our industry. Our calls for reform have been drowned out in the past by contractors, developers and other stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for joining us as we begin a new chapter in our history and introduce a new standard of safety within our industry. I know we all want a safer environment for our drivers, site staff and the general public.

Our past conversations have left many of our members upset and confused. They are upset because it has been over 8 months since we had informed the Government of Ontario of our concerns and there has been no action as of yet. They are confused because this government is supposed to protect the people of Ontario and help make this province the best place to live. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to find a solution as of yet, but we are once again at the table to explain our issue, and it is our hope that the Government of Ontario takes our concerns seriously. We hope that the government will take an immediate and strong position on this issue, and respond to violators who take part in illegal operations that jeopardize the safety of Ontarians for their own personal gain. They knowingly compromise the safety of the general public and this can no longer be acceptable. We should not have to wait for someone to die, for there to be strong action against unsafe dump truck loading practices.

Our intentions are clear: we do not want illegal overloading of dump trucks to jeopardize the safety of our workers, and the people of this province. We hope you understand the severity of this issue and why it is so important for you to take immediate action. Many of our members are not able to fully engage or elaborate their concerns because of their language barriers, and many of us have families that rely on the income we receive from doing our job. We want to ensure that we are treated fairly and that we can continue to go home to our families. We are here because we hope that you take our workplace safety seriously. I think it is safe to say that every single ODTA member wants a safe and fair opportunity to work, so that we can build this province up together.