



## PROBLEM

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation is planning to upgrade and reconstruct Highway 11 between Huntsville and Powassan. To prepare for the work, the Ministry required the visual inspection and reassessment of all sand, gravel and bedrock sources recorded in their filing system. The Ministry also require a preliminary survey of bedrock aggregate potential to identify rock units potentially capable of producing aggregates for road construction.

## APPROACH

The available pit and quarry data contained in the Ministry files were compiled in preparation for the field program. Ministry staff, the Ontario Geological Survey, the Geological Survey of Canada, and several universities were consulted. The objective of the field program, which involved site visits and visual resource assessment, was to verify and update the information in Ministry files. The information collected during the granular survey, which focussed on approximately 320 sand and gravel sources, included pit dimensions and face heights, granular material descriptions, site access, and recent activity. Seven quarry sites, primarily building stone sources, and 36 bedrock sites were also examined in detail during the bedrock survey.

## RESULTS

The study concluded that there are significant resources of sand and gravel in the study area but that private ownership, cultural development, transportation distances, and aggregate quality concerns potentially limit the availability of these materials. The bedrock is a potential alternative source for aggregate, and 14 potential areas were identified for further evaluation. Approximately 360 site files for sand and gravel sources were updated with detailed visual observations and photographs.