

# ONTARIO'S MASONRY MATERIALS IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

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## BUILDING ONTARIO WITH ONTARIO-MADE MATERIALS

*Why prioritizing local brick, block, and stone  
strengthens our economy, our communities, and  
our public infrastructure*

In Ontario, we are entering a critical moment for infrastructure investment. Billions of public dollars are being directed into new transit, housing, schools, hospitals, and community facilities. These projects are designed to serve generations of Ontarians, and the choices we make about the materials used to build them will shape not only the skylines of our cities but the economic health of our province.

At the Masonry Council of Ontario (MCO), we believe that the future of Ontario's infrastructure should be built with Ontario-made brick, block, and stone. High-quality products are manufactured here, in communities across the province, by skilled workers who are part of Ontario's industrial and cultural fabric. Yet too often, public projects in Ontario feature imported masonry products — from the United States or Europe — despite comparable or superior products being readily available from local suppliers.

This is not just a matter of industry preference. It is a matter of economic resilience, sustainability, and public policy alignment.



## SUPPORTING ONTARIO JOBS AND COMMUNITIES

When Ontario-made materials are used on public projects, the benefits extend far beyond the project site. Every dollar spent on locally manufactured masonry products creates a ripple effect through the provincial economy. It supports not only manufacturers but also suppliers, transporters, and tradespeople. It helps sustain good-paying, skilled jobs in communities across Ontario.

Local sourcing keeps more tax dollars circulating in the province, strengthening communities and reducing economic leakage. When we build with Ontario materials, we are quite literally building Ontario.

## REDUCING RISK AND STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAINS

The last several years have highlighted the vulnerabilities of global supply chains. Tariffs, trade disputes, shipping delays, and currency fluctuations have disrupted access to key construction materials and increased costs for public projects.

Today, this risk is amplified by the trade war initiated by U.S. President Donald Trump, which has reintroduced tariffs and trade tensions between Canada and the United States. These measures directly threaten the affordability and reliability of imported building products, including masonry. Relying on foreign supply chains in such a volatile context exposes Ontario's infrastructure projects to unnecessary cost escalation and uncertainty.

Ontario's masonry industry provides a reliable and stable domestic supply. Local brick, block, and local stone producers have the capacity to meet demand and the quality standards required for major infrastructure projects. By sourcing locally, public agencies like Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario can insulate projects from international disputes and ensure predictability, cost control, and timely delivery.





## ALIGNING WITH PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES

Premier Doug Ford and his government have been clear: Ontario's public projects should prioritize the use of Ontario-made and Canadian-made materials. This is not only sound economic policy but also smart politics, reflecting a growing public expectation that taxpayer dollars be reinvested at home.

By choosing Ontario brick, block, and stone, planners, designers, and public agencies demonstrate alignment with provincial policy and leadership in building an economy that works for Ontarians.

## A CALL TO ACTION FOR DESIGNERS AND PLANNERS

Planners, architects, and designers play a crucial role in shaping procurement decisions. By specifying Ontario-made masonry products in project designs and tender documents, you ensure that the benefits of public infrastructure investments are maximized for Ontario communities.

Design choices are never neutral — they reflect priorities and values. By choosing Ontario-made masonry, you are embedding resilience, sustainability, and economic stewardship into the very foundation of the projects you create.



## BUILDING ONTARIO, TOGETHER

Ontario is fortunate to have a strong, innovative masonry sector that produces some of the highest quality brick, block, and stone available anywhere in the world. We have the capacity, the expertise, and the commitment to support the province's ambitious infrastructure agenda.

The challenge now is to ensure that procurement practices and design decisions reflect the full value of local materials. By prioritizing Ontario-made masonry, we can create infrastructure that is not only durable and beautiful but also economically responsible, environmentally sustainable, and politically aligned.

At the Masonry Council of Ontario, we are committed to working with government, planners, and designers to make this vision a reality. Together, we can build Ontario — with Ontario.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) 2025 CONFERENCE

The recently concluded 2025 AMO Conference served as a vital forum for municipal–provincial collaboration amid growing economic and social pressures. Attendees explored pressing issues such as housing, AI, reconciliation, and infrastructure while engaging in influential political dialogue and targeted advocacy. This year, MCO was once again a proud sponsor of the conference's Delegates Lounge and Delegates Reception in collaboration with the Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA), the Cement Association of Canada and the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, which saw a record turnout in attendance.



## PAUL DE ROSE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025 RECAP

The 2025 Paul De Rose Memorial Golf Tournament was a tremendous success. Culminating on Wednesday July 23rd at the prestigious Copper Creek Golf Club, the sold-out tournament delivered an unforgettable experience inclusive of lunch, golfing, cocktails, and dinner. Thanks to the incredible patronage of everyone who participated, your support made the tournament truly special. We are very grateful for the golfers, sponsors, stakeholders, and guests who played a vital role in making this year's staging such a memorable occasion and we look forward to yet another phenomenal event in 2026!

