

RESOLUTION

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS ASSOCIATION 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

“Whereas Dr. Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President & Provost of the University of Toronto Announced on March 23rd, 2017 the launch of a Collegial Process of Exploration and Consultation about the Faculty of Forestry, the Ontario Professional Foresters’ Association wishes to participate and to submit the following comments.

“Be it resolved that Council give consideration to acknowledging that the importance of forestry issues in the 21st century is unquestionable. The attention paid to sustainable forest management has never been higher, and in the emerging bio-economy the demand for forest products and services is expected to grow both regionally and internationally. In a country that owns 10% of the world's forest, and 27% of the world's boreal forest, the importance of this resource can hardly be overestimated. Forestry education, therefore, is critical to Canada and Ontario’s forestry sector.

The graduates of the Faculty of Forestry are highly valued for their qualifications, find work easily, and seem to have rapidly and collectively risen to key leadership positions in Ontario. An education in forestry is truly interdisciplinary in a way that cannot be easily replicated by simply taking a variety of stand-alone courses on the relevant topics. The Ontario Professional Foresters’ Association and its members value their engagement with students of the Faculty of Forestry, from the perspective of education and of potential recruitment.

Maintaining the University of Toronto’s distinguished record of thought leadership in forest requires a Faculty status and structure, with the leadership of a Dean, to realize its potential and fulfill their mission.

The Ontario Professional Foresters’ Association expresses support for the Faculty of Forestry’s request to invest in additional faculty positions and to discuss solutions to overcome the challenges identified by the external reviewers in their extremely positive report about the Faculty in 2016.