

June30, 2017

Professor Cheryl Regehr
Vice-President & Provost
University of Toronto
Toronto, M5S 1A1

Dear Professor Regehr,

Please accept this letter as support for a newly focused and continued Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. After periods of uncertainty there comes change. With change there is opportunity. The opportunity currently facing the UofT is to regain a global leadership position in the education and training of forest professionals and to expand leading edge research around the numerous tangible and intangible values provided by forests and forest resources.

I put forward the following points for your consideration.

- 1) Forestry currently and in the future will not be the same as it has been for the past century. The future of forestry is science and technology based, meeting numerous complex societal needs. There are significant career opportunities for future Faculty of Forestry graduates, many more than for general arts and science graduates.
- 2) There are too many generalist leaving universities without the necessary skills and knowledge that employers are looking for and society needs. My hiring experience has shown that there are too many environmental and sustainability generalists and not enough people who possess a strong and deep understanding of natural resource management, environmental science and basic ecological and functions and interactions.
- 3) A Faculty is required. Forestry is a profession, legally mandated in many global jurisdictions. It is a body of professionals and practitioners like lawyers, dentists, physicians and pharmacists. To flourish and grow there needs to be a separate Faculty of Forestry within a University.
- 4) The current Faculty of Forestry requires new direction, leadership and focus. The Faculty needs a stronger connection to external and internal stakeholders. Areas of education and research that would grow the Faculty and University are in the areas of:
 - a. Forest management on Crown and Private Land
 - b. Valuation and Management of Natural Capital
 - c. Urban Forestry with focus on Great Lakes States
 - d. Wood Science with focus on wood-based construction and bio-based wood solutions
 - e. Forest Certification and Management Systems.
- 5) The re-opening of an undergraduate program within the Faculty should be considered and supported.
- 6) Adequate funding to the Faculty of Forestry must be restored in order for it to grow and thrive. "Starving" the Faculty of funding cannot continue. I had just started working at TD Bank when it was announced that TD was donating \$1 Million to the University of Toronto. It was the

University's decision to channel that donation to Scarborough and not to the Faculty of Forestry where it should have gone.

- 7) If the University decides to close the Faculty of Forestry please step away completely from providing forest-related courses. There are other colleges and universities in Ontario that will meet the needs of students and employers if U of T decides not to. If the Faculty of Forestry is closed and the University continues to say it is meeting the needs of student and society by offering a collection of courses in other schools and departments this would be a significant disservice to the University, students and potential employers.
- 8) If the University chooses to close the Faculty of Forestry please be efficient and effective in allowing the transition to another university.
- 9) This is a significant and exciting opportunity for the University to re-engage and support the Faculty of Forestry, forests and forest resources that will continue to grow in importance in helping to solve complex economic, social and environmental challenges. I hope Uof T has the foresight to rise to the opportunity and take hold. The Faculty has significant Alumni connections and strength, tap into them.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be pleased to discuss any of these points at your convenience.

Best regards,

Peter J. Johnson R.F.P., M.Sc.F., B.Sc. F.

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Peter is a proud alumnus of the Faculty of Forestry and attributes the success of his varied career to the Faculty of Forestry and the unique way it is able to prepare students for the variety of opportunities that await them. Currently, Peter works on Environmental and Social Risk within Global Risk Management at Scotiabank's headquarters in Toronto. In this role Peter is responsible for identifying and managing current and emerging environmental, social and sustainability risks and opportunities across Scotiabank's 55 country operational footprint. Prior to Scotia, Peter worked in a similar role at TD Bank. Prior to being asked to enter the banking sector Peter established PricewaterhouseCooper's (PwC) Sustainable Business Solutions consulting practice for Eastern Canada. Peter spent his first 12 years developing national and international sustainable forest management standards and auditing forest management companies across North America to those standards. Peter was the first person certified as a sustainable forest management auditor and lead the audit team that delivered the first forest certification audit in North America.

Peter maintains an extensive network of environmental, business, ENGO and sustainability colleagues across Canada and around the world. Listening, understanding and asking challenging questions to find solutions are the most important skills Peter has learned.