

September 15, 2017

Honourable Kathryn McGarry  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Suite 6630, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Subject: Ontario Tree Seed Plant (OTSP) closure

Dear Minister;

The Ontario Woodlot Association is very concerned with the 2018 closure of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant (OTSP). This closure will see an important historic facility cease an operation that is providing many agencies and organizations, including some 165,000 private woodlot owners of Ontario, with seedlings that will become Ontario's forests of the future.

In this era of changing climate, infestations of invasive insects and the negative effects they have on our forests, it would seem most important to maintain our tree seed supply for a wide range of species. This closure appears to be the opposite direction of the government's recent Climate Change Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through better carbon sequestration. As you know, the increase of sequestration occurs through healthy forests from good forest management practices, which includes the planting of seedlings that will thrive in our changing climates. These very same seedlings come from the OTSP. This is a most certain blow to our future environment.

We are concerned that this decision was made without interested parties being consulted and the OWA feels this course of action should be reversed. **The OWA suggests a small committee of interested parties be formed to investigate, along with government representatives, the consequences of this closing.** With the proper resources and partners, the OWA is prepared to extend participation in the management of this facility should its future continue.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (613) 713-1525 or by email at [eric.thompson@ontariowoodlot.com](mailto:eric.thompson@ontariowoodlot.com).

Thank you very much for your time on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Eric Thompson, RPF.  
Executive Director

cc. David Sexsmith, President of the OWA