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November 21, 2016

Barb Boysen  
Forest Gene Conservation Association  
Suite 233, 266 Charlotte St.  
Peterborough, ON K9J 2V4

Dear Barb:

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm with the Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA) the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNR) commitment to the maintenance of ecological integrity and protection of Ontario's rural and urban environments.

Although this commitment can be recognized in many of our policies and procedures it is perhaps summarized best in MNR strategic direction Horizons 2020 ([http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/mnrf-horizons-2020\\_en.pdf](http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/mnrf-horizons-2020_en.pdf)). Here MNR commits to "strive to strengthen management of natural resources to ensure ecological integrity and resilience."


As well, MNR's participation and support of the Ontario Biodiversity Council (<http://ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/>) whereby we commit to "protect, restore and recover Ontario's genetic, species and ecosystem diversity and related ecosystem functions and processes."

A key tool used by MNR to forward these objectives relative to Ontario's forests and treed landscapes is the use of adapted seed sources and "seed zones" which provide the spatial limits within which seed and stock can be freely moved without incurring a significant risk of maladaptation.

In Ontario, several studies have analyzed genecological data and determined clear patterns of adaptive variation among the trait studies, and for which broad seed zones have been developed. The results of these studies provide substantial rationale for the use of climatically-based seed zones to guide the transfer of seed/stock during reforestation activities in southern Ontario.

Through your commitment to gene conservation and seed zone management, I wish to again thank FGCA for the role you play in assisting MNR work towards these objectives.

Sincerely,

  
Monique Rolfvondenbaumen-Clark  
Director