

**A Government working for the People**



**Mr. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**

**A PROPOSAL FROM**

***The Second Century Plan***

**A PLACE TO GROW**

**Serving the Needs of Community, Economic  
Development and Sustainability**

**Regarding  
The Ontario Tree Seed Facility  
Angus, Ontario**

**Contact:**

Susan Antler,

The Second Century Plan

susan@utopia.ca; 416 535 6710

*Friends of the*  
**UTOPIA**  
**Gristmill & Park**

July 22, 2019

*The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1*

*The Honourable John Yakabuski  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry*

The ONTARIO TREE SEED FACILITY – THE SECOND CENTURY PLAN

Enclosed please find our collaborative vision and proposal to enable the Ontario Tree Seed Facility to serve you and the citizens of Ontario into its second century of public service.

The proposal has been built based on the needs of our community and the potential for economic development and sustainability.

We look forward to discussing this in greater detail with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Susan Antler, chair

Cc: Mr. Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey  
Doug Hevenor, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
Sandie MacDonald, Essa Township  
Rob Keen, Forests Ontario  
Larry Conrad, The Compost Council of Canada  
Maggie Curran, AWARE Essa

5901 Old Mill Road, Utopia ON L0M 1T0  
w: 1-877-499-HALL(4255); susan@utopia.ca

**The Ontario Tree Seed Facility**  
*The Second Century Plan*

**A PLACE TO GROW**  
**Serving the Needs of Community, Economic  
Development and Sustainability**

## The Ontario Tree Seed Facility

### A PLACE TO GROW

Serving the Needs of Community, Economic Development and Sustainability

*The Ontario Tree Seed Facility has well-served the needs of the Citizens and the Environment of the Province of Ontario for the past 97 years.*

*From the seeds collected and processed at the Ontario Tree Seed Facility, the Forests of Ontario were restored, flourishing to benefit the economy, environment and natural beauty of the province.*

Our Vision for the continued use of the facility is as follows:

### **VISION**

The Ontario Tree Seed Facility will be the site for natural climate solutions, education and the working needs of our community, operating together as a source of synergy and inspiration for the citizens of Ontario.

The site will be called the Natural Climate Solutions, Community and Education Centre.

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**The Natural Climate Solutions,  
Community and Education Centre  
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*Natural Climate Solutions*

Living systems – such as trees, soil, agricultural crops, wetlands – can significantly help capture and store carbon. Natural climate solutions can provide more than a third of the emissions reductions needed to hold the Earth’s temperature rise to well below 2°C. Our Centre will become a hub for organizations to work, conduct research, showcase and implement effective ways that work with Nature to address and increase our resiliency to climate change.

*Community*

A valuable publicly-owned property, the growing essential needs of the surrounding community for expanded fire protection and conservation services, recreation and economic development advances can be well-served and integrated within the property.

*Education Centre*

Building from a historical legacy that is intricately linked to the development of Ontario, the property, complete with an existing Ontario-heritage building and vegetation, will welcome the citizens of Ontario and tourists from around the world to learn and be inspired about how our individual actions can indeed make a positive difference to our environment, our well-being and overall Society.

**The Ontario Tree Seed Facility**  
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**Serving the Needs of Community, Economic Development and Sustainability**



**The Ontario Tree Seed Facility**  
**Angus, Township of Essa, County of Simcoe**  
**ONTARIO**

## THE PARTNERS

### I. Government Agencies

#### **Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority**

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to creating a healthy environment and communities through innovative watershed management.

NVCA is committed to protecting watershed communities from natural hazards like flooding and erosion and works to preserve and enhance watershed land and water resources. NVCA connects the communities with the watershed through nature-based educational and recreational opportunities.

As one of the 36 conservation authorities legislated by the Ontario Conservation Authorities Act, NVCA is governed by a board of directors appointed by their 18 member municipalities. Critical to their success is their strong partnerships with member municipalities, government agencies, community partners and local landowners.

NVCA's jurisdiction extends over the 3,700 km<sup>2</sup> of the Nottawasaga Valley watershed, excluding the lands within CFB Borden. The Nottawasaga River and its tributaries run from highlands on the Oak Ridges Moraine, Niagara Escarpment and Oro Moraine through the internationally significant Minesing Wetlands before flowing into Georgian Bay.

#### **The Township of Essa**

The Township of Essa is a "lower tier" municipal government located in the County of Simcoe west of the City of Barrie. The township is bounded by County Road 90 to the north, County Road 27 to the east and Ontario Highway 89 to the south. The 280 km<sup>2</sup> municipal jurisdiction includes the Town of Angus (Essa's primary urban centre) and the settlements of Thornton and Baxter. Other small hamlets contained within Essa include Utopia, Ivy and Colwell. Essa also include Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden.

The township is responsible for multiple functions and service including, but not limited to fire protection, road maintenance and parks and recreation management. Essa's Official Plan (OP) (2001) contains the broad policy framework to guide growth and development in the township. The township's OP should correspond with the overarching land use planning principals of the County of Simcoe and the Province of Ontario.

## **II. INDUSTRY**

### **Atlas 365, Atlas Hemp, Utopia Hemp**

A partnership of farmers and manufacturing, this industry coalition is focused on local hemp production for the manufacturing of a multitude of products including hempcrete, a bio-composite material used for green construction and insulation.

## **III. NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Forests Ontario**

Dedicated to the health of the forests of Ontario, Forests Ontario stewards tree planting initiatives and extensive education programs. Steeped in decades of community engagement, Forests Ontario has helped plant millions of trees in the province annually, partnering with industry, government, educators, researchers and donors to support the future of Ontario's forests.

### **The Compost Council of Canada**

Serving as the central resource and network for the organics recycling industry in Canada, The Compost Council of Canada advocates for soil health and climate mitigation through composting and anaerobic digestion and the use of the products from these operations for local and global sustainability. Training, research and demonstrations are fundamental components of the Council's work.

### **AWARE Essa**

A local arm of AWARE Simcoe, AWARE Essa works to protect the environment and health within the community. Active within a number of community-building organizations across Essa Township, AWARE Essa has advocated for tree planting, protection of agricultural resources and community development for environmental protection and conservation.

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**Friends of the Utopia Mill and Park**

The Friends of the Utopia Gristmill and Park has been in existence since 1992 with the principal objectives of preserving and enhancing the naturalized greenspace of the Utopia Conservation Area and preserving and restoring the historic Bell's Gristmill.

Operated by volunteers, Friends was incorporated in September 2006 as a non-profit organization. Granted a five year lease of the 20 ha western portion of the Utopia Conservation Area by the NVCA in 2007, with options for renewal. The organization has been responsible for raising of over \$750,000, most recently investing approximately \$300,000 into the structural stabilization of Bell's Gristmill and various external improvements to the building. Most recently, the organization, working in collaboration with the NVCA and Essa Township, has developed the Master Plan for the Utopia Conservation Area, investing over \$35,000 in its development and community consultation efforts.

# The Ontario Tree Seed Facility A PLACE TO GROW

Serving the Needs of Community, Economic Development and Sustainability

## THE PROPERTY

The current building infrastructure and lands which constitute the property has high, immediate “move-in” potential to permit an excellent transition to the proposed “Second Century” Vision and working needs of the partners.

Buildings (Figure 1) included on the property are as follows:

- Office
- Seed Storage
- Carpentry Shop
- Welding Shop
- Garage
- Greenhouse
- Drying Sheds (10)
- Storage
- Cone Storage/Drying
- Extraction Plant
- Drying Building

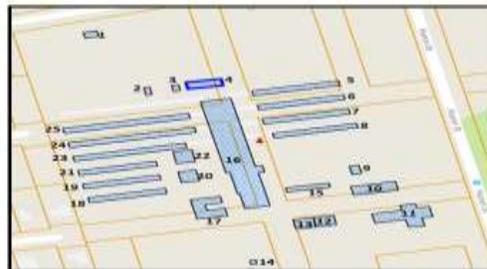
Culturally/historically significant features of the property include:

- Stone gates and walls
- Drying Building (especially CONE DRYING SHED #3)
- Tree Plantings (eg. Coronation Tree)
- Forested Area
- Drying Sheds

The existing roadways and nearby presence of the Essa Township Fire Station (Angus) as well as the Essa Township Ballpark complement the for-the-public-good orientation of the property.

Figure 1

- 1-B15059 STORAGE SHED
- 2-B15051 PAINT STORAGE SHED
- 3-B15005 TRUCK GARAGE
- 4-B15008 OPEN STORAGE SHED
- 5-B22042 CONE DRYING SHED #11
- 6-B22043 CONE DRYING SHED #12
- 7-B22044 CONE DRYING SHED #13
- 8-B22045 CONE DRYING SHED #14
- 9-B15057 BLANKET & BAG STORAGE
- 10-B15090 CONE DRYING SHED #3
- 11-091241 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
- 12-B15000 COLD STORAGE BUILDING
- 13-B15050 OFFICE & SEED PLANT
- 14-B15078 PumpHouse
- 15-B15002 GREENHOUSE
- 16-B15005 PROCESSING PLANT
- 17-B15004 WORKSHOP & STOCKROOM
- 18-B15005 CONE DRYING SHED #10
- 19-B15053 CONE DRYING SHED #9
- 20-B15056 TRUCK GARAGE
- 21-B15092 CONE DRYING SHED #8
- 22-B15056 TRUCK GARAGE
- 23-B15094 CONE DRYING SHED #2
- 24-B15051 CONE DRYING SHED #5
- 25-B15000 CONE DRYING SHED #5



## The Ontario Tree Seed Facility A PLACE TO GROW

Serving the Needs of Community, Economic Development and Sustainability

### THE PLAN

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) will be the leaseholder of the property, the direct point of contact and reporting with the Province of Ontario. The NVCA will manage the maintenance and overall operations for the property.

All partners involved in *The Natural Climate Solutions, Community and Education Centre* (NCSCEC) will both enter into a formal lease arrangement with the NVCA as well as contribute one member to the overall Property Management Advisory Council. In addition to the oversight provided directly by the NVCA, this Council will actively contribute towards the management and financial integrity of the property.

The property will be utilized in the following manner:

- i. Essa Township – the southwestern portion of the property will be used to expand the Township’s current Fire Department site. As well, the land to the east of Huron Street will be assumed by the Township, enabling the community park to be expanded.
- ii. Atlas 365, Atlas Hemp, Utopia Hemp – the Extraction, Cone Storage & Drying Facilities will be used to collect and process the hemp fibre from participating local farmers. The size of these facilities will also accommodate their manufacturing interests to transform the hemp fibre into hempcrete and other products. Office space will be accommodated in this area for their use. An existing roadway will be used for delivery and shipping purposes.
- iii. Forests Ontario – space within the Office building will be used for a satellite office. The existing board room and kitchenette will support a series of training courses to be held on-site.
- iv. The Compost Council of Canada – the northwest corner of the property will incorporate a demonstration site for Soil Health Field Trials. Space within the Office building will be used for a satellite office. The existing board room and kitchenette will support a series of training courses to be held on-site.

## The Ontario Tree Seed Facility A PLACE TO GROW

### Serving the Needs of Community, Economic Development and Sustainability

- v. AWARE Essa/Friends of the Utopia Mill & Park – working with the Ontario Archives, County of Simcoe Museum and additional experts, the historic Drying building (Cone Drying Shed #3) will be transformed into a public museum and education centre, dedicated to the story and impact of the Ontario Tree Seed Facility to the Province of Ontario and our environment. Signage will be placed throughout the property at the many heritage and rare trees (*eg. the English Oak gifted by the United Kingdom to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the examples of tree species rarely found locally such as the Cucumber Magnolia tree, Gingko and Ponderosa Pine*), by the buildings and other appropriate locations to document the cultural and natural significance of this property.
- vi. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority – in addition to the use of the office building, the NVCA will use existing buildings such as the Greenhouse, Carpentry Shop, Welding Shop and Garage for their ongoing program delivery, administration and support services. The available land (both open and forested) will also support the NVCA's ongoing education and experiential learning programs. The opportunity exists to establish a formalized trail within the forested area for public access.
- vii. Opportunities will exist for additional partners to become involved to further the vision and economic sustainability of the property.

## THE FINANCIALS

### *i. The Financial Assumptions of the Annual Baseline Costs*

The Financial Assumptions for the property management have been developed based on the Ontario Tree Seed Plant Operations Costs as provided by MNRF in March 2019 (see Appendix I). As such, it is estimated that the annual baseline costs to maintain the property and facilities are approximately \$200,000.

This amount reflects the following costs:

- Minor Building Repairs, General Waste, Cleaning, Alarms	\$50,000
- Utilities (Hydro @ \$50K; Water @ \$6K; Gas @ \$34K)	\$90,000
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$23,000
- Insurance/Contingency (including part-time property manager)	<u>\$37,000</u>
Total	\$200,000

All other costs (eg. staffing, incremental hydro, leasehold improvements, trail development, building upgrades, signage, etc.) would be the direct responsibility of the organization involved.

### *ii. The Revenue Generation to Cover Annual Baseline Costs*

Revenue to cover the annual baseline costs of \$200,000 will be sourced through the following means:

#### I. Office Building

- Per room office rent (5 rooms @ \$750/month; 12 months)	\$45,000
- Meeting Room Use for Training Sessions (meeting room day rate of \$500; 8 days/month; 10 months)	<u>\$40,000</u>
Sub Total	\$85,000

#### II. Extraction, Storage and Cone-Drying Facilities

- Rent (\$4170/month; 12 months)	\$50,000
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#### III. Specific Ongoing Use of Property

- Annual Lease base on Per Unit Acre (\$10,000 per acre/year) Assume a Total of 7 acres leased annually	<u>\$70,000</u>
Total	\$205,000

**The Ontario Tree Seed Facility**  
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*ii. The Financial Potential*

There is tremendous opportunity to serve the needs of the citizens of Ontario and local economic development through the retention of this property through this SECOND CENTURY – A PLACE TO GROW VISION.

Currently our organizations have all identified their willingness to work together and with the Province of Ontario to retain this important for-the-public-good property, enabling it to continue its legacy as an important contributor to the long-term needs of Ontario.

We look forward to meeting with representatives of our Province and stewards of the property to discuss these opportunities further.

## The Ontario Tree Seed Facility A PLACE TO GROW

Serving the Needs of Community, Economic Development and Sustainability

### **THE BENEFITS TO ONTARIO**

*Ontario's Tree Seed Plant .. helps Ontario adapt to the effects of climate change, restores endangered tree species and supports tens of thousands of jobs in the forest industry. Planting trees and protecting the environment enhances the quality of life for Ontario families and ensures a dynamic, green economy for future generations.*

*Ontario Tree Seed Plant ... Ontario Government Supporting the Economy, Protecting the Environment, October 2013 on the Occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant*

The legacy of the First Century of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant to the citizens of Ontario will continue through the enormous potential identified in this proposed collaborative approach.

Included among the proposal's many benefits are:

#### **Economic Development**

- Growing demands on the existing government services (fire protection, resource management, recreation) require additional infrastructure. Instead of building from scratch, existing public property can be utilized cost-effectively.
- The Ontario cultural and natural heritage resident within the property and nearby (such as the nearby Minesing Wetlands and Utopia Conservation Area) offer an excellent foundation for ecotourism and experiential learning. The property's location, within 2 hours of an Ontario population of over 6 million, offers tremendous potential for day-trips and longer-term stays which will complement the area's additional four-season recreational interests resident in the nearby Blue Mountain and Georgian Bay destination area.
- Supporting organizations and activities that are fundamental to Natural Climate Solutions will yield significant results, delivering both new jobs as well as providing cost-effective carbon capture solutions that have been estimated at costing less than \$10US per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>eq stored.
- A new, emerging agricultural industry – hemp production – will be supported, helping area farmers incorporate an additional crop that produces a range of new products which are delivering additional financial yields, supporting the area with additional employment, currently estimated at 60 full-time jobs annually.

## The Ontario Tree Seed Facility

### A PLACE TO GROW

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- The existing building infrastructure offers tremendous opportunity for training courses and workshops, bringing additional revenue into the local economy as well as helping to sustain and enhance the work of participating non-profit, public-good organizations.

#### **Sustainability**

- Serving as a hub for Natural Climate Solutions will offer excellent opportunities for learning, program advancement and product development, delivering much-needed answers which need to be incorporated across Ontario's society. Building on the existing legacy of the Ontario Tree Seed Facility positively catapults the credibility of the vision and delivery of hard-working, successful results for a need identified by all.
- The collaborative nature of the proposed partnership provides significant synergy and will serve as a working example of the need to build partnerships across industry, government and citizens to effect positive environmental change.
- Natural climate solutions have been estimated to be able to deliver up to 37 percent of the emission reductions needed by 2030. The proposed centre can serve to catapult the collaborative partnerships and programs needed to deliver Ontario leadership and results toward emission reduction goals.

# The Ontario Tree Seed Facility

## A PLACE TO GROW

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Appendix 1

### Ontario Tree Seed Plant Operations Costs

Source: MNRF, March 2019

Ontario Tree Seed Plant Operations & Capital Cost Estimates (based on historic and updated data where available)		
Expenses - Averaged over 5 fiscal years (2012/13 to 2016/17)		Comments
<b>Operating Costs</b>		
•Minor Building and Equipment Repairs, Cleaning, General Waste, Alarms	\$ 31,237.13	
•Computer Services and Other Office Equipment	\$ 13,984.37	
•Workshops	\$ 188.85	
•Supplies (processing and office)	\$ 8,909.66	
•Advertising, non-routine cleaning, E-waste	\$ 4,371.07	
•Phone/Teleconference/Fax/Mail	\$ 63,850.06	
•Staff Training/Meetings	\$ 3,745.61	
•Vehicle Fuel and Accessories	\$ 1,646.89	
•Vehicle Leases	\$ 11,103.83	
•Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 262.97	
•Other Miscellaneous Program Supplies	\$ 13,454.35	
<b>Cone Contracts</b>	<b>\$ 146,771.40</b>	Business model would determine whether this is required.
<b>Maintenance, Monitoring, and Inspection (see slide deck for descriptions)</b>		
Gas	\$ 31,950.80	
Water	\$ 5,601.20	
Hydro	\$ 88,863.80	
Maintenance, Monitoring & Inspection General - Updated for 2018/19	\$ 161,439.20	
Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PIL) - Updated for 2018/19	\$ 22,877.00	MNRF pays in lieu of taxes, municipal taxes may be higher depending on business model
<b>Long Term Infrastructure - Averaged over 15 fiscal years (2002/03 to 2016/17)</b>		
Capital Costs	\$ 230,000.00	based on available records, includes new boiler system.
<b>Totals:</b>		
Operating Cost Total	\$ 610,258.20	
Capital Total	\$ 230,000.00	
<b>Grand Totals</b>		
Grand Total Operating Expenses (less Capital)	<b>\$ 610,258.20</b>	Does Not Include Salaries & Benefits
Grand Total Operating Expenses (including Capital)	<b>\$ 840,258.20</b>	Does Not Include Salaries & Benefits
<b>Revenues - Averaged over 5 fiscal years (2012/13 to 2016/17)</b>		
Includes all revenues from all sales and services	\$ 217,377.60	

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Appendix 2

**The Vision and Impetus that created the Ontario Tree Seed Facility**

“Between 1790 and the early 1900s, (much of southern) Ontario was denuded of all of its existing forests through the efforts of lumbermen and farmers. The results were devastating. Wildlife disappeared, streams and rivers dried up, and sand and top soil blew away.

“In 1904, an ambitious professor from the University of Toronto in forestry proposed to the province that it would be a good idea to establish an aggressive replanting program in the marginally productive areas of the province. In fact, he wanted to more than triple the existing tree cover in Southern Ontario. It was an audacious idea and he had a lot of nerve. His name was Edmund Zavitz and his story is worth repeating...

"Extending though Northumberland and Durham Counties is a sand formation locally known as the "Oak Ridge" or "Pine Ridge"... It is safe to say that seventy-five percent is wholly unfit for successful farming... These areas should be preserved for the people of Ontario as recreation grounds for all time to come... The policy of putting these lands under forest management has many arguments in its favour... It will pay as a financial investment; assist in insuring a wood supply; protect the headwaters of streams; provide breeding ground for wild game; provide object lessons in forestry; and prevent citizens from developing under conditions which can end only in failure. "

*Report on the Reforestation of Waste Lands in  
Southern Ontario, 1908 (E. J. Zavitz) published by the  
Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto*

“The vision that Edmund Zavitz was to develop and (to a large extent) realize is difficult to imagine today. So much of what we take for granted was part of his vision. ....

“To ignore the Zavitz story is to deny our forbearers much credit for creating the natural beauty, safety and productivity that we enjoy in our provincial parks, conservation areas, and wide tracts of private land that were forested with his leadership.”

*Edmund Zavitz planted the idea for 2 billion trees*  
Mark Cullen: Toronto Star, November 2, 2012

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In 1923, the Forestry Branch purchased property of its own and commenced the present group of buildings. This plant is the Ontario government's only seed extracting plant and is one of the best equipped on the continent. Through it, employment is given to several men and as time goes on, this plant together with the enlarging plantation on Camp Borden should give work to many more. In 1924, the first pine trees were planted on the plains by the Ontario Forestry Branch where years ago, big timber was cut.  
This work has continued each year since.

...

Now in conclusion, let it be said the writer shares the same thoughts of many people in the Village, that Angus has yet to see many prosperous years. And if the forces for good which have been commenced so recently are continued, the same little village which has such an interesting forestry background will continue to grow and prosper, and a new generation will see the same plains as their fathers once saw them, clothed with close growing trees, and knowing what the presence of such timber will mean to their community to be able to say the words of Browning,  
"Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be."

The Village of Angus, A Historical Sketch

Written by Arthur Herbert Richardson, M.A., M.F.

*The First Superintendent of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant*

*Colleague to Edmund Zavitz, known as "The Father of Reforestation in Ontario"*

*Published on the occasion of the  
Official Opening of the Angus Community Park*

July 24, 1929

## Letters of Support from Partnering Organizations

Please be advised that at its meeting of June 19, 2019, Council passed the following:

### Ontario Tree Seed Facility (OTSF)

**Resolution No:** CR146-2019 **Moved by Smith** **Seconded by:** White

*WHEREAS Essa Township has hosted the Ontario Tree Seed Facility (OTSF) for the past 97 years in the heart of Angus for the purpose of restoring and serving the forests of Ontario; and  
WHEREAS the OTSF has ceased operating, however, the lands, buildings and features remain as significant to the Municipality and present a new opportunity to serve as a hub and provide for needed public space;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of Essa supports in principle, working with an array of government ministries and public service organizations to collaborate to develop opportunities for the site which are financially sustainable.*

**----Carried----**

Sincerely,

*Lisa L. Lehr, CMO*

Clerk

Phone 705-424-9770 extension 117

Township of Essa

5786 County Road 21

Utopia, ON L0M 1T0



—  
144 Front Street West, Suite 700  
Toronto, ON M5J 2L7  
[www.forestsontario.ca](http://www.forestsontario.ca)

July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

**Re: Second Century Plan: A Place to Grow for the Ontario Tree Seed Facility**

Forests Ontario is pleased to partner in the SECOND CENTURY PLAN – A PLACE TO GROW for the Ontario Tree Seed Facility (OTSF).

Forests Ontario has been working in the seed and tree planting business for over 15 years and has witnessed the need for the growth and expansion of programs and initiatives that work to counter the impacts of climate change. The OTSF has been a significant contributor to efforts working to mitigate the effects of climate change both at the macro and micro level. This facility will make an excellent venue for the important work proposed through this collaboration. We are confident that this already-strong baseline will grow exponentially as the centre becomes established and more connected to the industry.

As part of our facility partnership, we will contribute training and education opportunities for both the citizens of Ontario as well as our industry.

The forests of Ontario have benefited greatly from the OTSF for the past 97 years. We look forward to the OTSF continuing to benefit the citizens of Ontario into the future through this collaborative proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Keen".

Rob Keen  
CEO, Forests Ontario  
[rkeen@forestsontario.ca](mailto:rkeen@forestsontario.ca)



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Website : [www.compost.org](http://www.compost.org)

July 20, 2019

On behalf of The Compost Council of Canada, we value the opportunity to partner with local government and agencies as well as other natural climate solutions organizations to collaborate on the development and sustainability of the proposed *Natural Climate Solutions, Community and Education Centre*.

We look forward to being an active contributor to the centre, utilizing the property for training, research and education.

The vision and partnership offers excellent opportunities to showcase and train the leaders and those who can implement real solutions to effecting positive change to the looming climate change stresses that will impact all.

For the Love of the Earth™

Larry Conrad  
National Chair



**Letter of Support for Natural Climate Solutions, Community and Education Centre  
July 20, 2019**

AWARE Essa fully supports the proposal for the site of the Ontario Tree Seed Facility known as Natural Climate Solutions, Community and Education Centre. This partnership of government agencies, industry and agriculture, and local community groups will create a centre that maintains the legacy of the Tree Seed Facility while responding to the needs of a new century for sustainable economic development.

AWARE Essa recognizes the significant contributions of the Tree Seed Facility and its invaluable environmental impact. The forest restoration movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was an environmental success story, and the Tree Seed Facility played a key role. But this is not a well-known story outside of forestry circles. Preserving and using the site, buildings and some artifacts will create a sense of place that can keep this history alive and celebrated by communities across the province.

Members of AWARE Essa have learned a lot over the past few years in the process of working to keep the Tree Seed Facility open, then volunteering with the MNRF's Cultural Heritage Working Group. We are ready to bring that commitment to this new endeavour. As an environmental group linked to AWARE Simcoe, we have the capacity to promote the sustainability of this project in the broader community.

Natural Climate Solutions, Community and Education Centre will confront the challenges of the future by preserving the lessons of the past. The members of AWARE Essa look forward to contributing to the realization of this project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margaret Curran'.

Margaret Curran,  
Chairperson AWARE Essa  
80 Cecil Street  
Angus, Ontario  
L0M 1B3



## **NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, COMMUNITY & EDUCATION CENTRE**

Our organization provides our commitment and support to successfully implement the proposed collaboration and partnership to serve the important needs of our community as well as citizens of Ontario.

The Ontario Tree Seed Facility is an important public-good property whose usage has benefited Ontario and our Society's well-being for the past 97 years. Its value can continue to contribute to the needs of our Province through its transition to the proposed focus.

Our organization has a proven track record of contributing to economic development and conservation. We will bring this commitment towards this proposed partnership, delivering funding, programming and collaborative solutions.

Susan Antler, chair