



FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, November 24th, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – Meeting 04/2020

By Electronic Participation

           	Present: Dave Robertson, Committee Chair François Allard, Private Citizen Alain Bertrand, Private Citizen Archie Byers, Private Citizen Maurice Chabot, Private Citizen Ben de Haan, United Counties of Stormont Dundas Glengarry Dorothy Hamilton, Stormont Dundas Glengarry OWA Murray Inch, Private Citizen Glenn Mackey, Private Citizen François St. Amour, Mayor, La Nation Bill Smirle, SNC Board of Directors, Past Chair, ex-officio Ron Toonders, Ag Soil and Crop Regrets: Lloyd Benedict, Mohawks of Akwesasne George Darouze, SNC Board of Directors, Chair, ex-officio Elizabeth Holmes, MNRF (non-voting) Steve Hunter, United Counties of Prescott Russell Pierre Leroux, SNC Board of Directors, Vice Chair, ex-officio Tony Ricard, Private Citizen Staff: Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Carl Bickerdike, Team Lead, Corporate Services Cheyene Brunet, Forestry Technician Chris Craig, Senior Forestry Technician Caroline Goulet, Forestry Technician Dianne MacMillan, Administrative Assistant Karen Paquette, Fisheries Technician Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Property Martin Streit, Forester Guest: Doug Thompson, Private Citizen
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CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dave Robertson, Committee Chair, convened the Forestry Committee meeting of Tuesday November 24th, 2020 at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed Committee Members. The Committee Chair commended staff on the work accomplishments completed regardless of COVID-19 restrictions.

APPROVAL OF FORESTRY COMMITTEE MAIN AND SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDAS

RESOLUTION NO. FC-032/20

Moved by: Glenn Mackey

Seconded by: Archie Mellan

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forestry Committee main and supplemental agendas of November 24th, 2020 with the following amendment:

- a. Move Supplemental Agenda Item #1 a., Update: Bill 229, to follow Main Agenda Item #3, Declaration of Conflict of Interest

CARRIED

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

UPDATE: BILL 229

Angela Coleman, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer presented a PowerPoint presentation indicating the highlights of Bill 229, *Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020*. Staff will circulate any information to Committee Members to provide comments to Bill 229.

SNC FORESTRY PROJECT UPDATE – POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

Staff presented Forestry Program and Project updates.



**APPROVAL OF: FORESTRY COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2020**

RESOLUTION NO. FC-033/20

Moved by: Archie Byers
Seconded by: François St. Amour

RESOLVED THAT:

The Members approve the Forestry Committee virtual meeting minutes of September 1st, 2020 as submitted.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2020 OTTAWA ASH TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. FC-034/20

Moved by: François St. Amour
Seconded by: Archie Byers

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee recommends the Board of Directors approve the carry-over of approximately \$118,000 in approved Ottawa Ash Tree Replacement Program grant funding to the 2021 Budget for payment to approved projects as they are completed; and

FURTHER THAT:

The Forestry Committee recommends the Board of Directors approve reallocating any surplus funds from the approved projects to the next eligible project on the Program waiting list.

CARRIED

UPDATE: 2020 FORESTRY YEAR END REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. FC-035/20

Moved by: Murray Inch
Seconded by: Dorothy Hamilton



RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the 2020 Forestry Year End report update.

CARRIED

UPDATE: SNC RESPONSE TO EMERALD ASH BORER

RESOLUTION NO. FC-036/20

Moved by: Archie Byers
Seconded by: Ron Toonders

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the update on Emerald Ash Borer projects.

CARRIED

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: 2021 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

RESOLUTION NO. FC-037/20

Moved by: Glenn Mackey
Seconded by: Ron Toonders

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee approve the Forestry Committee meeting 2021 schedule as presented.

CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ron Toonders

- Removed approximately 500 ash trees, all either dead or showing signs of dying
 - o Pat Piitz informed Members that in SNC parks, which are smaller, have a high (90%) percentage of dead ash trees and SNC will be removing them over time
 - o Chris Craig - logs from dead ash trees are usable for some marketplaces

Murray Inch

- Oak Valley Pioneer Park
 - o Completed tree trimming during the summer



- o The park was busy over the summer: numerous visitors; musicians; and a wedding hosted towards end of summer
- o North Dundas Township have graveled the parkway

Bill Smirle

- SNC Board of Directors approved the 2021 budget at the November meeting
- SNC Board of Directors Executive was elected at the September meeting: George Darouze, City of Ottawa, Chair; Pierre Leroux, Mayor of Russell, Vice Chair, and Bill Smirle, Stormont Dundas, Glengarry, Past Chair
- SNC budget planning begins each year in August, if Committee Members have any ideas, please contact staff no later than the June committee meeting for input

Pat Piitz

- Logging Contractors virtual meeting held on October 22
 - o Limited participation, a lot of outreach was done to promote this meeting; will be holding the meeting in March from now on
 - o Still missing potential contractors from the list
 - o One participating contractor requested custom maps for contractors; SNC is currently working towards this

UPCOMING EVENTS

Archie Byers

- Congratulations to Doug Thompson on his appointment to the Ontario Trillium Foundation

Doug Thompson

- Nominated to the Ontario Trillium Foundation review team covering the area between Cornwall and Petawawa

Bill Smirle

- No further Committee meetings for the year – the Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for December 17th which will be virtual
- SNC offices will be closed on December 24th, and reopening on January 4th, 2021



DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- March 4th, 2021: Forestry Committee, 10:00 a.m.
- March 4th, 2021: Joint Standing Committees, 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. FC-038/20

Moved by: Murray Inch

Seconded by: Bill Smirle

RESOLVED THAT:

The Forestry Committee meeting of
November 24th, 2020 be adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

CARRIED

Dave Robertson,
Committee Chair.

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead, Property.

/dm



To: Forestry Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 22, 2021
Subject: Request for Approval: Election of Committee Chair

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee Members appoint Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects as the Acting Committee Chair; and

FURTHER THAT: SNC Administrative By-law 15.3: *'All elections shall be in accordance with the Procedures for Election of Officers'* be adhered to.

DISCUSSION:

As per the South Nation Conservation (SNC) Standing Committees Terms of Reference, each Standing Committee must appoint a Chair annually.

As Election Chair, I will solicit nominations from Committee Members for the Chair position. If only one nomination is made, there will be a motion to approve the nominated Chair. If multiple nominations are made for these positions, I will conduct a vote using the procedures outlined in Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

No impact on the 2021 SNC Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence:

The Election of Committee Chair adheres to the SNC Standing Committees Terms of Reference and the SNC Administrative By-laws.

Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.



Election Procedures

1. Election Chair declares the position vacant, according to *SNC's Administrative Bylaws*
 2. Call for nominations 3 times for election of Chair (no seconder required)
 3. Approval of the following motion:
 - o Moved by:
 - o Seconded by:
 - That for the year 2021, and until the Joint Standing Committee Meeting of 2022,
 - That Mr./Ms. _____ be elected as Chair of the Forestry Committee
 4. Chair assumes their office
-

SNC Election Procedures if there is more than one candidate for Chair

1. Election Chair declares the position vacant, according to *SNC's Administrative By-laws*
2. Election procedures for Chair
 - o Nominations require no seconder
 - o Election chair calls for nominations from the floor
 - o If a nominee does not wish to accept, they should decline immediately
 - o If there are no further nominations from the floor, election chair asks if there are any further nominations
 - o If none are forthcoming, the election chair declares nominations closed
 - o Where a vote is required, ballots will be distributed and scrutineer(s) appointed
 - o Announcement of results
3. Chair assumes their office



Appendix A

Procedures for Election of Officers

Voting

- B1.1 Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- B1.2 No Member may vote by proxy.
- B1.3 "Majority Vote" means half of the votes plus one.

Acting Chair

- B2.0 The Committee shall appoint a person, who is not a voting Member, as Acting Chair for the purpose of the election of Committee Chair.

Scrutineers

- B3.1 The Acting Chair shall call a motion for the appointment of one or more persons, who are not Committee Members or Staff of the Authority, to act as scrutineers.
- B3.2 A Committee Member, who will not stand for election, may be appointed as an additional scrutineer if requested.
- B3.3 All ballots shall be destroyed by the scrutineers after the vote.

Election Procedures

- B4.0 The Acting Chair shall advise the Members that the election will be conducted in accordance with the Act as follows:
 - a) the election shall be conducted in the following order:
 - i. Election of the Chair, who shall be a Member of the Committee;
 - b) the Acting Chair shall ask for nominations;
 - c) only current Members of the Committee who are present may vote;
 - d) nominations shall be called three (3) times and will only require a mover;



- e) the closing of nominations shall require both a mover and a seconder;
- f) each Member nominated shall be asked to accept the nomination. The Member must be present to accept the nomination unless the Member has advised in writing or by email in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination;
- g) if there is only one nominee, the individual shall be declared into the position by acclamation;
- h) in the event of an election, each nominee shall be permitted not more than three (3) minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing by surnames;
- i) upon the acceptance by nominees to stand for election to the position of office, ballots shall be distributed to the Members by the scrutineers for the purpose of election and the Acting Chair shall ask the Members to write the name of one individual only on the ballot;
- j) the scrutineers shall collect the ballots, leave the meeting to count the ballots, return and advise the Acting Chair who was elected by Majority Vote.

Majority Vote required

- B5.1 A Majority Vote shall be required for election.
- B5.2 If there are more than two nominees, and upon the first vote no nominee receives the majority required for election, the name of the person with the least number of votes shall be removed from further consideration for the office and new ballots shall be distributed.
- B5.3 In the case of a vote where no nominee receives the majority required for election and where two or more nominees are tied with the least number of votes, a special vote shall be taken to decide which one of such tied nominees' names shall be dropped from the list of names to be voted on in the next vote.

Tie vote

- B6.1 Should there be a tie vote between two remaining candidates, new ballots shall be



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distributed, and a second vote held.

B6.2 Should there still be a tie after the second ballot a third vote shall be held.

B6.3 Should there be a tie after the third vote, the election of the office shall be decided by lot drawn by the Acting Chair or designate.



To: Forestry Committee
From: Ronda Boutz, Team Lead, Special Projects
Date: February 20th, 2021
Subject: Request for Approval: 2021 Committee Membership

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee recommends the following membership to the Board of Directors for 2021.

- | | |
|--|---|
| - François Allard, Private Citizen | - Murray Inch, Private Citizen |
| - Lloyd Benedict, Mohawks of Akwesasne | - Glenn Mackey, Private Citizen |
| - Alain Bertrand, Private Citizen | - Tony Ricard, Private Citizen |
| - Archie Byers, Private Citizen | - Dave Robertson, Committee Chair |
| - Maurice Chabot, Private Citizen | - François St. Amour, SNC Board Member |
| - Dorothy Hamilton, Ontario Woodlot Association – Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Chapter | - Benjamin De Haan, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry |
| - Elizabeth Holmes, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (non-voting) | - Doug Thompson, Private Citizen |
| - Steve Hunter, United Counties of Prescott and Russell | - Ron Toonders, Agriculture |
| | - George Darouze, SNC Chair, ex-officio |
| | - Pierre Leroux, SNC Vice Chair, ex-officio |
| | - Bill Smirle, SNC Past Chair, ex-officio |
-

DISCUSSION:

According to the 2016 Standing Committees Terms of Reference, Committee Membership will consist of:

- 15 members maximum per Committee, plus 3 ex officio Board Members
 - i. strive for watershed representation, both geographic and functional
 - ii. with 75% majority vote of the Committee at which quorum is achieved, additional Members may be added to the Committee, subject to Board approval.
 - Budgets for travel/per meeting allowances will not change from the budgeted amount, regardless of committee size
 - Staff support will remain nominally the same, regardless of Committee size
 - All Committee appointments to be approved annually by the Board of Directors at the March Board meeting
 - Any Committee Member (including ex officio members) missing two consecutive meetings without communicating justification, to the Committee Chair, will be removed from the Committee.
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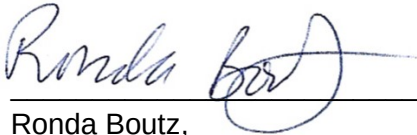
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

Committee expenses are included in the approved 2021 SNC Budget, under Communications and Outreach, pages 86-87 (SNC Standing Committees).

SNC Policy Adherence:

SNC Committee's adhere to SNC Administrative By-laws and Standing Committee Terms of Reference.



Ronda Boutz,
Team Lead, Special Projects.

/dm



To: Forestry Committee
From: Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Property
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Update: SNC Forest Annual Report 2020

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the SNC Forest Annual Report 2020.

DISCUSSION:

The SNC Forest Annual Report summarizes activities that occur within the SNC Forest during the annual operating period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Highlights of the current Annual Report include:

- An increase in the forest area (one new acquisitions)
- Compliance with operating standards (FSC)
- Staff training and development – new Registered Professional Forester (RPF)
- Increase in the number of silvicultural prescriptions
- Increase in tree marking and harvest area
- Continued tree planting on SNC land
- Increase harvest revenue
- Continued forest infrastructure investment

The report is available on the Forestry Committee webpage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

In compliance with the 2020 SNC Budget: Community Lands: SNC Forest. No impact on the 2021 Budget.

SNC Policy Adherence:

In compliance with SNC Forest Policy.

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead Property.

Meeting Handout: SNC Forest Annual Report 2020



To: Forestry Committee
From: Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Property
Date: February 18, 2021
Subject: Update: Forest Certification Audits

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the update on Forest Certification.

DISCUSSION:

FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)

The annual FSC audit was completed from November 30, 2020 to December 4, 2020. Four Community Forests, one private commercial forest owner, and four private forest owners were included in the 2020 audit. Member-forests are randomly subject to audit following internal monitoring requirements as per the new Group Standard (FSC-STD-30-005V2-0 FM Groups Standard). The SDG County and SNC forest were not selected for field audit during 2020. Non-conformities and observations apply to all group members where applicable.

Results:

1. Minor Non-Conformity Report (NCR) - Group 8.3/21

The group manager's 2020 internal monitoring calculation of 9 sites to sample, and site assessment reports documentation did not meet minimum annual sampling requirements for internal monitoring of members. Seven sites should have been sampled for FMUs under <1000 ha, instead of four.

Corrective Action: Apply the Sample 3 additional FMU <1,000 ha, by the end of January 2021, document and provide internal monitoring reports during 2022 audit.

2. Observation 4.2.1/21

All forest workers must comply with all relevant provincial occupational health and safety requirements.

Detailed Health and Safety records (ex. pre-harvest inspections, harvest contracts, first aid training certificates) were reviewed by the auditor in conjunction with interviewing group members and workers. It was discovered that a contractor (owner-operator) did not have anyone who was certified in first aid on-site during harvest operations, although first aid kits present on-site. The auditor noted wide-spread requirement.



Corrective Action: A reminder that Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act – Workplace Safety and Insurance Act (WSIB) Regulation 1101, requires all employers to ensure that first aid kits and stations are in charge of workers who hold a valid first aid. Forest Managers should ensure continued conformance with Indicator 4.2.1.

GROUP CERTIFICATE AUDITS (internal monitoring)

The SDG County and SNC Forests were audited and found compliant with operating standards as follows:

SNC Forest (January 27, 2021)

- Selective Thinning – SNC 16/17 (North Stormont)
- Clean, efficient and compliant operation.
- Heritage and Species at Risk identified and protected.

SDG Forest (January 25, 2021)

- Selective Thinning – SDG 11/12/13 (North Stormont – Warwick Forest)
- Residual stand in excellent condition; overall trail network good – minor rutting addressed immediately.
- Compliant with standards.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

Forest certification is included in the 2021 SNC Budget: Community Lands: SNC Forest pgs. 36-37 and Resource Management: Partner Programs: Forests pages. 16-17

SNC Policy Adherence:

Adheres to SNC Forest Management Policy.

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead Property.



To: Forestry Committee
From: Chris Craig, Senior Forestry Technician
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Update: Forest Health Network

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the update on the Forest Health Network.

DISCUSSION:

SNC forestry Staff attended a virtual forest health presentation hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regarding forest health. Presentations covered species such as the forest tent caterpillar, gypsy moth, pine engraver beetle, as well as a few invasive species like Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Asian Long Horn Beetle and other destructive bugs and diseases. To the average person, not involved with environmental work all of these presentations would make them think that it would be the end of all trees.

The forestry staff are well acquainted with all the 'nasty critters' in the forest and are always on the look out for them while conducting daily work; to keep them inline with what mother earth intended. Some of the important ones right now that are here or close by; EAB, Asian Gypsy Moth, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Staff do enjoy getting some great pictures from private citizens or requests to come take a look at their trees. It often helps us to predict what might be seen in the forest ahead of it happening.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Not applicable.

SNC Policy Adherence: Consistent with SNC Forest Policy.

Chris Craig,
Senior Forestry Technician.



To: Forestry Committee
From: Pat Piitz, Team Lead Property
Date: February 4, 2021
Subject: Update: Emerald Ash Borer Parasitoid Release Project

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the update on the Emerald Ash Borer Parasitoid Release Project.

DISCUSSION:

SNC partnered with the Canadian Forestry Service (CFS) to release three species of parasitoid wasps to control local Emerald Ash Borer infestations. The CFS program began in 2014 and has released nearly 240,000 parasitoid wasps.

After site establishment and training from the CFS staff, SNC staff released the following parasitoids during summer months of 2017-2019: *Tetrastichus planipennisi* (15,747), *Oobius agrili* (3,600), and *Spathius galinae* (2,192).

The SNC release sites were two of twenty-seven sites throughout Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. The SNC sites were located at the Two Creeks Forest and at an SNC property on Hwy 138 near Monkland.

The SNC release sites were sampled during the fall of 2019 to determine release success. On each site 4 trees were removed and transported to the CFS lab in Sault Ste. Marie, ON for rearing of parasitoids. *Tetrastichus planipennisi* were successfully found at the Monkland site but not yet at the Two Creeks forest site. Small quantities of *Oobius agrili* were found at both sites. No *Spathius galinae* were found. It takes 3 years of sampling to determine whether a viable population has become established.

It is still too early in the development of the biological control program to have an impact on EAB in Canada. Sites established in 2014, have shown a high degree of success and that the population will spread once established, up to 1.5 - 5 km per year.

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, CFS staff plan to continue sampling in the fall 2021. No samples were taken in fall 2020.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: Not applicable.

SNC Policy Adherence: Consistent with SNC Forest Policy.

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead Property.



To: Forestry Committee
From: Pat Piitz, Team Lead, Property
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Update: SNC Forest-Related Projects

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the report on SNC Forest-Related Projects update.

DISCUSSION:

Each year SNC benefits from partner projects that occur within the SNC Forest. These projects increase our knowledge of the natural environment and assist in monitoring the impact of our forestry operations and other activities. A few of these projects are listed below:

Carleton University (2020):

Ecological study on 10 SNC properties studying biodiversity of plants, birds, and small mammals. Study will confirm presence of additional species and assess biodiversity.

University of Guelph (2019):

Ecological study on two SNC properties to assess the spatial and temporal distribution of arthropods (insects, spiders, etc.). Study will confirm presence of additional species.

University of Montreal (2017-2018):

Ecological study of the effects of climate and land use change on the distribution and diversity of mosquitos and the exposure to mosquito-borne disease. Increase knowledge of the subject species and social impacts.

Canadian Museum of Nature (2019):

Botanical inventory of several SNC properties with particular interest in mosses and lichens. Study will confirm presence of additional species.

Environment and Climate Change Canada:

Vernal Pool Project (ongoing): Determine the design, implementation and monitoring of vernal pool compensation guidelines. Project involved two SNC properties increasing knowledge of amphibians.

Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP/ongoing): The HSP enabled inventory, assessment, and recovery of American ginseng population on various SNC properties. Increased knowledge of species at risk.



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Public Health Agency of Canada (2019):

Characterization study of wild bird populations to various virus diseases circulating in Ontario to determine human pathogen vectors. The study Included various SNC properties. Increased knowledge of subject species and social impacts.

Ontario Power Generation Biodiversity Program (2020-2022):

Project provides support for invasive species control (glossy buckthorn) on two SNC-managed properties. Increase knowledge and skills in invasive species management.

Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forestry Service (ongoing):

Project provides support for invasive species control (Emerald Ash Borer) on two SNC-managed properties. Increase knowledge and skills in invasive species management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget:

Not applicable.

SNC Policy Adherence:

Compliant with SNC Forest Policy.

Pat Piitz,
Team Lead, Property.



To: Forestry Committee
From: Chris Craig, Senior Forestry Technician
Date: February 23, 2021
Subject: Update: Indigenous Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:

The Forestry Committee receive and file the Indigenous Partnerships update report.

DISCUSSION:

SNC has a long history of partnering with local First Nation communities, the following report summarizes several of SNC's past, present, and potential projects.

1. Eastern Ontario First Nations Working Group

SNC has been working with the Mohawk and the Algonquin Nations for approximately 20 years. South Nation hosts the Eastern Ontario First Nations Working Group. This group is chaired by SNC, Plenty Canada (Indigenous not-for-profit), and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne (MCA) Environment Department. Co-chairs include: SNC's Senior Forestry Technician, Chris Craig, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan; Larry McDermott, Plenty Canada, Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation, and Abraham Francis, Mohawks of Akwesasne, Department of Environment. This group works on the ground with agencies in Eastern Ontario to collaborate on projects.

2. 2007-Present: Forest Stewardship Council Certification

SNC's forests are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certified, as such, SNC is committed to FSC Principal 3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights. SNC works with local First Nation communities to share knowledge and information on local forests. This includes hosting joint workshops for FSC landowners to help them understand and uphold their duties and obligations to these Principals.

3. 2005-2006: Black Ash Partnership

The Black Ash Management partnership (2005-2006) was an innovative partnership between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and South Nation Conservation. The project included black ash inventories on properties owned by South Nation Conservation, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry, plus two properties owned by Domtar. Program objectives included: preserving and enhancing the natural regeneration of black ash species, a culturally important species that has been declining over the past several decades. The resulting management plans and protocols helped determine the number of



black ash trees per hectare in a specified area; and an educational component taught students the value of forest resources and their cultural, economic, and ecological significance to different community groups.

4. 2007-2008: Medicinal Plant Inventory

The Medicinal Plant Project is another innovative partnership between the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, and the Aboriginal Strategy Group (the Eastern First Nations Working Group), and South Nation Conservation. In 2007-2008, the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) for Southern Ontario was used to determine medicinal plant species and their sustainability in the South Nation Watershed.

Program objectives included: identification of numerous medicinal plants and promotion of their use, strengthening existing relationships between First Nation groups and non-Native groups, enhancement of greater communication between youth and Elders to ensure traditional healing knowledge is strengthened and passed on and the creation of a medicinal plant database which was mapped to inform management decisions regarding holistic use of forest resources. Prior to this project there was a lack of information on herbaceous plants, birds, reptiles, mammals, and other wildlife prevented strategic targets that prevented them from being identified for their environmental or cultural values.

5. 2018-2019: Edible Buffers

In 2018/19, SNC partnered with First Nations to establish 2 km of edible buffers, at four sites, along watercourses in the South Nation River watershed. The incorporation of First Nation Traditional Knowledge was a key principle in the species selection at the sites and the educational programming offered to local schools during the site planting. This project was featured by Ontario Power Generation in 2020 as the first project highlighted in the “Power of Nature” series; the project video can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xseEOzxOTE0&list=PLULHkA9f3CYaDDMbWNI72KCQMz6JzqLXH>

6. 2019-2020: Healing Place

SNC partnered the Mohawk and the Algonquin Nations on a Reconciliation and Climate Change Planting. A working group of partners (SNC, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Department of Environment, Plenty Canada, Forests Ontario, and Ontario Power Generation) continues to meet to further develop The Healing Place, a site on an SNC property near Shanly, ON, where over 100 culturally significant trees and shrubs were planted. The working group plans on hosting at least one annual event at the site to “polish the belt” / “feasting the bundle”.



SNC recently submitted an Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Regional Biodiversity Funding proposal to support site development and education and outreach. SNC will work with First Nation partners to develop and deliver several education and outreach initiatives throughout the SNC jurisdiction. Work will include researching and documenting local First Nations and early settlers' history, where people lived and how they interacted with the environment and each other. This foundational knowledge is key to our journey to reconciliation and will form the basis for proposed initiatives.

SNC will also work with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne – Department of Environment and Plenty Canada (Algonquin First Nations) to host community tree giveaways of culturally significant species. A factsheet will be developed to accompany each seedling to explain why the tree is culturally significant.

7. 2021-2023 Species at Risk (Potential Project)

SNC is partnering with Plenty Canada, Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and Algonquins of Pikwakanagan in a 2-year joint proposal to the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) to conduct inventories, surveys, and monitoring with in Eastern Ontario for the following species: Monarch butterfly, Western Chorus Frog, Black Ash, Algonquin Wolf, little brown Myotis bat, Northern Myotis Bat, and the Tri-coloured bat.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/ADHERENCE TO SNC POLICY:

Compliance with Budget: SNC's contributions of staff time are included in the 2021 SNC Budget under Property: Community Lands: Lands and SNC Forests, pages 34-37. Staff carries out cultural value components of projects while in the field conducting regular forestry activities.

SNC Policy Adherence: Consistent with SNC Forest Policy.

Chris Craig,
Senior Forestry Technician.

**Forestry Committee
February 2nd, 2021
Correspondence**



February 04, 2021

Fred Pinto
Executive Director & Registrar
Ontario Professional Foresters Association
5 Wesleyan St, #201
Georgetown, ON
L7G 2E2

Re: Conservation Ontario's comments on the Ontario Professional Foresters Association's Review of the *Professional Foresters Act, 2000*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Ontario Professional Foresters Association's (OPFA) review of the *Professional Foresters Act, 2000*. Conservation Ontario is the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit consideration of comments shared individually with the OPFA by CAs during this review process.

As the Province's second-largest landowners, CAs protect and manage a considerable amount of forested area in Ontario on their privately-owned lands. Many CAs have established partnerships and deliver programs in their watersheds related to forestry, including tree planting services, nursery services, and woodlot management. These are undertaken in collaboration with watershed stakeholders and organizations and include helping landowners restore and improve their properties, protect and improve water quality and quantity, and reduce erosion.

Conservation Ontario offers the following comments in response to the OPFA's questions included in the information sheet for the OPFA's review of the *Professional Foresters Act* and its regulation.

Question 1: Are you supportive of making improvements to the *Professional Foresters Act* and its Regulation?

Overall, Conservation Ontario is supportive of making improvements to the *Professional Foresters Act* and its Regulation (O. Reg. 145/01). Many of these proposed amendments will offer greater clarification to the scope of practice of professional forestry in Ontario, which will be helpful for individuals and agencies to better understand where the use of professional foresters is required and why it is important to the sustainable management and stewardship of Ontario's forests. Overall, the proposed changes would improve accountability of professional foresters, which will contribute to the quality of forest management across Ontario.

While Conservation Ontario agrees with the proposal to remove existing exemptions for the eight unregulated professions outlined in O. Reg. 145/01, CO anticipates that it will be necessary for further

consultation to occur on the activities which constitute professional forestry, and what activities can be undertaken by these unregulated professionals without being in contravention of the Act. Additional comments on this topic are offered in response to the questions below.

It is our interpretation that CAs would not necessarily be required to employ a professional forester for works which meet the scope of practice for professional forestry on lands they own. Subsection 3(2) of the *Professional Foresters Act* states that the practice of professional forestry does not include acts performed in relation to the management or manipulation of forests if they are performed personally by individuals on land which they own, among other exclusions. As such, CAs would be able to set their own land use and forest resource objectives on their lands, however, in many cases it is recognized that CAs will engage a Registered Professional Forester (R.P.F) given the benefits associated with the professional competencies and accountabilities of such registered individuals.

Question 2: Have you had any experience of issues in forestry-related work due to unclarity in the scope of practice between professional foresters (OPFA registrants) and other occupations (not registrants of OPFA)?

CAs have a strong history of working collaboratively with external partners, stakeholders, landowners and the general public on a number of forestry-related projects, including community planting events, restoration, tree planting, endangered species, hazard tree and invasive species management on CA and private lands. It is noted that many consultants, as well as CAs, offer tree planting services, including planting plans and implementation. Based on section 3 of the *Professional Foresters Act*, it is our interpretation that for tree planting activities, the development of planting prescriptions and plans would constitute professional forestry, whereas the implementation (planting of trees) generally falls outside of this scope of practice. Given the breadth of forestry works undertaken by CAs, as well as other individuals and organizations engaged in forestry related works, it is recommended that clarity should be provided through the development of supplemental guidance to assist with interpretation of the Act.

A supplemental guidance document which outlines common forestry works which would require an R.P.F or R.P.F supervision would be helpful for implementation, as well as to assist with clarifying the scope of practice, for instance, where there is intersection between the work of urban foresters and arborists. While some CAs may employ a R.P.F, others may not have an R.P.F on staff, and may currently utilize employees in some of the “unregulated professions” to develop planting prescriptions and plans (e.g. ecologists or biologists). The proposed amendments to O. Reg. 145/01 would require those CAs without an R.P.F on staff to work under the direction of a professional forester or seek Full or Associate R.P.F membership when performing work that is considered professional forestry. It should be noted that it is already the current practice for many CAs without an R.P.F on staff to have R.P.F’s at neighboring CAs review and stamp/sign-off on planting prescriptions and plans

Question 3: Are there other improvements you would like to see added to the OPFA’s proposal?

Conservation Ontario offers the following additions and amendments for consideration in the OPFA’s proposal:

1. Conservation Ontario recommends that a review of section 3 *Scope of practice* of the *Professional Foresters Act* be undertaken to further clarify the scope of professional forestry. For instance, subsection 3(1)(e) states that “the classification, inventory and mapping of forests and urban forests” would fall under the scope of professional forestry. Given the amendments

proposed by the OPFA which recommend removing eight non-regulated professions from the list of exempt professions under O. Reg. 145/01, Conservation Ontario is requesting clarification as to whether this proposed amendment would limit the abilities of CA staff (e.g. ecologists), who are responsible for forest inventory work such as monitoring and Ecological Land Classification, to complete this work? With the amendments proposed by the OPFA, would this work then need to be completed by, or completed under the supervision of a R.P.F? We note that this work does not necessarily involve the manipulation of forest cover or forest management, and would request that the amendments put forward by the OPFA would not result in this work becoming the exclusive domain of R.P.Fs. Other areas where similar clarification is requested include whether the design of forest health monitoring programs (invasive species and pests) would be classified as professional forestry, in addition to other common CA stewardship and restoration activities such as endangered species habitat management and vegetative plantings within stream restoration projects.

2. Conservation Ontario recommends that through this review, the OPFA consider a more robust set of definitions under the *Professional Foresters Act*. For example, both “forest” and “urban forest” should be clearly defined such that the parameters of the scope of practice can clearly be interpreted and understood. An updated definition for “urban forestry” should consider the impact on professions such as arboriculture, which are non-regulated but have a vested interest and reasonable claim to the management of urban forests. For example, it would not be recommended that activities such as street tree inventory in the urban forest be the sole domain of a R.P.F.

Summary

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on OPFA’s review of the *Professional Foresters Act* and its regulation. Given that the OPFA is undertaking a scoped review of the *Professional Foresters Act* at this time, we anticipate that the OPFA and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will be undertaking additional consultation on any proposed changes to the Act and its regulation in the future. Conservation Ontario would welcome the opportunity for the OPFA and/or the MNRF to host an information session for CA staff to provide greater clarity on the proposed changes and the questions raised in this submission. Should you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact myself at jrzadki@conservationontario.ca; 905-717-0617.

Sincerely,



Jo-Anne Rzadki, MSc.
Business Development & Partnerships Coordinator

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs