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November 20, 2017

Kathleen Wynne, Premier
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Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1
kwynne.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

The Honourable Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3
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**Re: Ontario Needs Government Leadership to Ensure Tree Seed for
Resilient Forests**

Dear Premier and Minister:

We are deeply concerned about the August 2017 announcement by the OMNRF that the Ontario Tree Seed Plant is scheduled for closure in September 2018.

Since its inception, the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority has placed a priority on tree planting efforts in the Kettle Creek watershed. In the last ten years alone, KCCA has planted over 850,000 trees in its watershed. The seedling stock we plant is sourced from nurseries that rely on seed from the Ontario Tree Seed Plant.

Specifically, we are concerned that the Tree Seed Plant closure decision:

- was made without client and public consultation;
- does not recognise that the private sector alone cannot undertake this significant and necessary challenge to ensure the resilience of Ontario's forests;
- has the potential to constrain private sector growers' and planting agencies' abilities to deliver on initiatives such as the provincially funded 50 Million Tree Program; and
- is being enacted too quickly to develop short and long-term options that will provide seed for reforestation practitioners, and ensure the quality of the seed currently in storage.

We respectfully request that any and all actions on the closure of the Ontario Tree Seed Facility be put on hold pending the outcome of a consultative process and the development of a succession plan.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth VanHooren
General Manager

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