



Ontario Urban Forest Council
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January 28, 2021

Ontario Professional Foresters Association
5 Wesleyan St, Georgetown, ON L7G 2E2

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Professional Foresters Act

Dear Mr. Street,

The Ontario Urban Forest Council has recently become aware that the OPFA is proposing changes to the *Professional Foresters Act* (the Act), and we have concerns over the timing and duration of the pre-consultation that has occurred to date.

We are concerned that there has been a limited amount of time for stakeholder groups and inadequate time to research and understand the need for the revision of the Act. The potential disruption to the urban forestry sector, including arboricultural practises, should be seriously considered in light of the proposed revisions.

It is understood that the definition of "Urban Forests" was introduced in the Act in 2001 with exclusions for certain activities that are exempted in the Act and Regulation to allow for the continuation of services for certain activities.

Respecting the presentation of information and FAQs presented on the OPFA website, it seems to lack any reference to Urban Forests and the impacts on exempted occupation/professions/fields that may be directly affected by any changes proposed.

Further, there was a lack of information provided regarding the rationale for reviewing the Act respecting key clauses that require attention does not appear to have been presented other than to improve professionalism in an industry that is currently governed by a practicing Act.

Therefore, we would request that the OPFA undertake a more broad and inclusive stakeholder/municipal/developer/public consultation where there is opportunity for more research and engagement respecting the proposed review of the Registered Professional Forestry Act. As it stands, there are potential implications for the arboricultural industry and urban forestry writ large that require more analysis.



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Our concern is the changes as proposed may create friction and contradict other Acts of the Provincial Government and may lead to more confusion in the Arboriculture industry with regard to the practices in the urban forest environment.

We respectfully ask that you please advise how the next stage of consultation will proceed, as we would like to be directly involved so that we can engage more fulsomely with our members on these issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Wynnyczuk".

Peter Wynnyczuk

The Ontario Urban Forest Council, Executive Director and Some Board of Directors

John Barker, Sadia Butt, Jade Schofield, Barbara Yarowski