



**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**FACULTY OF FORESTRY**

Office of the Dean

October 10, 2017

Professor Sioban Nelson  
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs  
Simcoe Hall, Room 224  
27 King's College Circle  
Toronto, ON, M5S 1A1

Dear Prof. Nelson,

On behalf of the Faculty of Forestry, I am pleased to provide a follow up report to the May 2016 External Review of the Faculty of Forestry. The follow-up report on the undergraduate programs is a joint response from the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Arts & Science. The Review examined the Faculty of Forestry's graduate programs: Master of Forest Conservation (M.F.C.); Master of Science in Forestry (M.Sc.F.); Doctor of Philosophy in Forestry (Ph.D.); and our Forestry undergraduate programs offered through the Faculty of Arts & Science: Forest Biomaterials (Science) B.Sc., Hons. (Major, Minor); Forest Conservation (Science), B.Sc., Hons. (Specialist, Major, Minor); Forest Conservation (Arts), B.A., Hons. (Specialist, Major, Minor).

The three external reviewers praised the Faculty of Forestry's long tradition of thought leadership, particularly in urban forestry, and the success of the MFC program and noted that our graduates are highly valued for their qualifications. They also stated that the Faculty is to be applauded for its constructive engagement with the private sector, especially with the Haliburton Forest, and they found the Faculty of Forestry's expertise in biomaterials research to be of high caliber and economic value. They also noted the high regard internationally for the Faculty of Forestry's leadership with the Master of Forest Conservation program, which is described as rivaling elite programs such as those at Yale University and the University of Michigan. The reviewers describe the University of Toronto's Faculty of Forestry as uniquely positioned to educate forestry professionals and scientists who move rapidly into research and managerial/policy making roles, and to identify important linkages between forest management and Aboriginal issues of cultural heritage.

The Faculty of Forestry's foundation is strong; as you are aware, the Faculty of Forestry is undergoing at the moment a restructuring process, initiated by the Provost's Office. It would be premature to deal with any of the concerns of this report at this time, as measures to evaluate the concerns are now undergoing consultation at the Provostial and Faculty levels in light of a restructuring opportunity that should both strengthen and consolidate the Faculty of Forestry's efforts to reevaluate and strengthen its offering within the university. This includes ongoing discussion regarding specifically:

1. **Undergraduate Curriculum Program and Delivery: Joint Report by the Faculty of Arts & Science and the Faculty of Forestry.** At present the Faculty of Forestry is in discussions to deal with the future relationship with teaching in association with the Faculty of Arts & Science in a way that realistically addresses existing enrollments and offerings within the undergraduate programs in Arts & Science. These discussions will take place in the context of the larger restructuring conversation.
2. **Graduate Curriculum & Program Delivery.** It is acknowledged particularly at the graduate level, both in the masters and PhD. Program the Faculty of Forestry is exemplary in the delivery of high quality graduate education worth of U of T high educational standards. The restructuring of the faculty will have the potential to strengthen and potential expand those offerings, but need to be carefully considered in relation to restructuring opportunities. Again, this process has just begun and should be completed within the year subject to the Provost's office approval.
3. **Faculty & Research** The faculty is following up on opportunities for Aboriginal involvement and expanded opportunities for teaching, and one of the goals of the restructuring is to put in place practical and innovative opportunities for this to take place.
4. **Resources & Planning** While this is critical to the growth and sustainability of any Faculty, this also needs to be carefully positioned with in the restructuring strategy. At the moment it would not be practical to make a longer-term faculty appointment, nor to actively engage in fund raising until a strong, innovative plan as a result of the restructuring process takes place. Again, this strategy should be in place with the Provost approval, within the year.

I am looking forward as the new Dean in Forestry to working with you and the Provost's office on the Faculty's restructuring and hope to have more to report in the coming year to deal specifically with the concerns and opportunities identified in the Self-Study report.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Robert M. Wright  
Dean, Faculty of Forestry



Professor David Cameron  
Dean and Professor of Political Science  
Faculty of Arts & Science