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March 30, 2017

Lisa Slomke
Town Clerk
Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Dear Lisa Slomke,

In 2017, Forests Ontario is marking Ontario150 and Canada's sesquicentennial by celebrating the rich legacy of our forests and by establishing future forests.

Our forests are an undeniable symbol of our province. They support healthy ecosystems and address the challenges of climate change. Forests Ontario is proud to announce the launch of two initiatives and we invite your staff and residents to get involved:

- **The Heritage Tree Program** recognizes important trees in our communities associated with significant figures and events from our history. Our goal in 2017 is to collect and share the stories of 150 unique trees and encourage greater appreciation of trees as cultural artifacts. Anyone can nominate trees for recognition as a heritage tree. Visit www.heritagetrees.ca or contact Toni Ellis, Heritage Tree Coordinator, at 1-877-646-1193 ext. 301.
- **Ontario's Green Leaf Challenge (GLC)** – The Ontario government and Forests Ontario invite all Ontarians to plant 3 million trees in 2017. Your residents then add the trees they plant to our online counter, which will map and track trees planted across the province. The website also provides resources to connect residents with local tree planting events and tree planting resources. We encourage your staff to add trees to our counter, submit tree planting events and share information about your local tree planting programs. Visit www.greenleafchallenge.ca or contact Stephanie Prince, Communications Coordinator, at 1-877-646-1193 ext. 225.

In addition, Forests Ontario continues to deliver the **50 Million Tree Program (50MTP)**, supporting landowners and municipalities in establishing healthy new forests on their properties. The program offers significant financial and practical assistance for planting trees on properties with more than 2.5 acres of open land. The Program covers a significant portion of the total planting costs. The 50MTP is an excellent opportunity to not only minimize costs and effort for tree planting, but enhance the value and function of the property and create a living legacy that will benefit entire communities. If you or your residents require more information about the 50MTP, please contact Suzanne Perry, Forestry Outreach Coordinator, at 1-877-646-1193 ext. 239.

Enclosed is a selection of materials detailing these initiatives. Please promote these opportunities to your community. Please encourage your staff and residents to contact us if they require additional copies.

Our forests are essential to a healthy future. Let's take action today by growing future forests and by engaging Ontarians to appreciate the important place of trees in our communities.

Regards,

Rob Keen, RPF
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