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Minister  
of Natural Resources



Ministre  
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

JUL - 7 2016



Mr. Dennis Kelly  
Regional Clerk  
Regional Municipality of York  
17250 Yonge Street  
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of April 22, 2016, regarding the York Region's 2015 *Greening Strategy Achievements* report and the recommendations of the Regional Council. As the federal minister responsible for forests, I am pleased to see communities implement green infrastructure-related programs and initiatives with a view to enhancing the quality of life for their residents.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that trees and forests contribute to the health and well-being of all Canadians. In partnership with communities and other stakeholders, federal, provincial and territorial governments conduct scientific research on pests and diseases, exotic and introduced species, and forest management practices. At the Canadian Forest Service, under Natural Resources Canada, scientists regularly publish findings that advance knowledge about insect behaviour, detection methods and best practices for pest management, including insects such as the emerald ash borer and the Asian Longhorn beetle, as well as tree diseases that occur primarily in urban landscapes.

I extend my congratulations on the successful outcomes generated by the *Greening Strategy*. It is my hope that efforts like these will become a catalyst for the development of innovative partnerships that will help ensure healthy and resilient forests for communities across the country.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Jim Carr, P.C., M.P.