



AUG 11 2003

REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE

Minister
of Natural Resources Canada



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

Ministre
des Ressources naturelles Canada

FILE No. - P06

→ TT+CW

Dan Buchanan

FYI

8/13/03

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
Corporate Services Department
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 2003, and the copy of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Forestry Status Report, Clause No. 15, Report No. 6 of the Transportation and Works Committee. I appreciate your support and interest in preventing this insect from moving into the Regional Municipality of York.

While I agree that the EAB is a serious concern, I understand it is still confined to the Windsor area and that efforts are being made to contain its spread. I certainly recognize the importance of ash and other trees in southern Ontario. That is why the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are diligently working together on a top priority, multi-million dollar strategy to manage this insect.

A major hurdle we face is in determining the biological characteristics of this insect in North American conditions, as very little is known about its behaviour. The EAB was first detected and identified in the spring of 2002. It is believed that the insect arrived in the Detroit area about four or five years ago, having come from China in solid wood packaging material. Since that suspected arrival date, the CFIA, in response to other insects arriving from China in similar packaging, has imposed restrictions on solid wood packaging to reduce the chance of new organisms arriving in Canada.

NRCan-CFS and the CFIA have started a research program to study the EAB and look for possible management and prevention methods. Additionally, forest health technicians in southern Ontario are constantly watching for any tree that might be infected by the EAB. Once we know its biology and habits, prevention and management procedures can

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be developed. We are hopeful this can be done in a relatively short period of time to ensure that its trail of damage can be stemmed.

For further information on the EAB, you may wish to access the CFIA's Web site at the following Internet address:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/for/pestrava/agrplae.shtml>

Also, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has issued a forest health alert on the EAB that can be found through our forest health page at:

http://www.glfrc.forestry.ca/foresthealth/index_e.html

Thank you again for expressing your concerns on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herb Dhaliwal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

The Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Lyle Vanclief, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The Honourable Jerry Ouellette, M.P.P.
Minister of Natural Resources
Government of Ontario