

January 28, 2021

Honourable John Yakabuski  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Ontario, Canada

Dear Minister Yakabuski,

I am writing you on behalf of the over 1,600 International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborists®, 102 ISA Tree Worker Climber Specialists®, 14 ISA Board Master Certified Arborists® and 46 ISA Certified Municipal Specialists® as well as 1,100 ISA Ontario members to express concern over the proposal to amend the Ontario Regulation 145/01 under the Professional Foresters Act, 2000 (the Act). The proposal will have a negative impact on these certified arborists who work in a regulated profession and who have earned and retained their professional certification with our organization.

ISA is a global organization focused on promoting the professional practice of arboriculture and fostering a worldwide awareness of the benefits of trees. We have over 24,500 members around the world and have conferred over 50,000 credentials. We are the credentialing body for the arboriculture profession and our ISA Certified Arborist certification has been accredited by ANSI/ANAB since 2009. We are one of only 72 organizations worldwide that have received this accreditation and our program is audited annually. ISA is the only certification body with this accreditation in the arboriculture and urban forestry space. Our certification can be viewed here: <https://anabpd.ansi.org/Accreditation/credentialing/personnel-certification/AllDirectoryDetails?&prgID=201&OrgId=117&statusID=4>

ISA certification is a voluntary program that tests and certifies a professional's achievement of standard level knowledge and skill in the field of arboriculture. When a profession becomes an ISA certified arborist, they should be recognized by their peers and their public as a tree care professional who has attained a generally-accepted level of knowledge in areas such as tree biology, diagnosis, maintenance practices, safety and other subject and practice areas within the tree care profession. And, for ISA certification holders to maintain their certification they must commit to increasing their professional knowledge through continuing education. One of ISA's certifications is even a pre-requisite for a WorkSafeBC compliant program.

Our organization works closely with ISA Ontario to deliver high quality education and training for arborists and urban foresters, support our credentialing programs and provide public education and awareness about the importance of professionals caring for their trees. ISA Ontario is an excellent resource to provide valuable input into the proposed Ontario Professional Foresters Association's amendments to the Regulation that will devastate the public confidence in the arboricultural profession and, potentially, the health of Ontario's urban and community trees. I hope that you take the opportunity to learn more about the positive impacts that our industry has on your province's economy and on the environment. Please use this as one of the factors in your decision making on this proposed amendment.

Please feel free to reach out for more information about our profession, its practitioners and on the certifications they earn and maintain. I can be reached at +1-678-367-0981, ext. 20 or by email at [cpollihan@isa-arbor.com](mailto:cpollihan@isa-arbor.com).

Sincerely,

  
Caitlyn Pollihan, CAE  
CEO & Executive Director