

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Deputy Minister

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Date: March 16, 2017

TO: The Honourable J. David Wake
Temporary Financial Accountability Officer
Financial Accountability Office of Ontario

FROM: Bill Thornton
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Subject: Financial Accountability Office Request # FA1613-02e: The Cost-Effectiveness of Ontario's Business Support Programs

Further to your request for information on the Cost-Effectiveness of Ontario's Business Support Programs please find attached the detailed information on the following MNRF items:

- Ontario Wood Promotion Program – a program to stimulate a culture of wood use in Ontario and elsewhere while fostering a diversified, competitive forestry sector.
- Bio-Economy Investment Attraction Program – which provides support to an important anchor mill for the forest industry in Northwestern Ontario
- Aboriginal Economic Development Program –provides direct economic benefits to First Nations from local forestry activities, as well as, provides meaningful involvement by Indigenous Communities in forest tenure work.

All the financial information for previous fiscal years is based on actual program expenditures. The information for 2016-17 is based on our actual expenditures to date and the estimates to year end.

Please note that for the future funding levels, this information is based on what was included in our PRRT submission which has not yet been finalized by Treasury Board.

If you have any questions regarding this material please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Regards,



Bill Thornton
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

cc. **Tim Schuurman, ADM, Office of the Budget**
Peter Harrison, Chief Financial Analyst, Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario
Paula Reid, CAO and ADM Corporate Management and Information Division
Andrew Flynn, Director, Strategic Management and Corporate Services Branch
Kathleen McFadden, ADM Forest Industry Division