We would like to share some important changes regarding the governance of the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario (BIO). As many of you know, Mario Thomas will be concluding his term as CEO of BIO at the end of March, 2018. We wish to thank Mario Thomas for his outstanding leadership, and his dedication to BIO for the past 3 years.

We are at a unique and exciting juncture that bodes extremely well for the future of biodiversity science at University of Guelph. Food from Thought has placed BIO on stronger financial footing, and, between Food from Thought and the Interdisciplinary Biodiversity Initiative more researchers from across the UofG campus are engaged with BIO than ever before. These factors, coupled with the phenomenal research, outreach, and collaboration being led by BIO researchers, and global recognition of the incredible importance of biodiversity science, have elevated BIO’s prospects for extending its positive impacts into the future.

The University of Guelph aims to leverage the successes within BIO, and continue to guide it on a strong positive trajectory. In keeping with this, effective May 1, 2018, Dr. John Fryxell will be appointed Interim Executive Director for BIO activities, which will be overseen by the College of Biological Science. For the foreseeable future, there is expected to be no change to the day-to-day operations or staffing of BIO’s units, including the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics, the Canadian Centre for DNA
Barcoding, the Informatics Unit, the Collections Unit, the International Development Unit, and the BIO Herbarium.

This new reporting structure will enable BIO to integrate, amplify, and accelerate biodiversity science. It is expected that researchers from across the University will have an opportunity to share their knowledge and collaborate in biodiversity science, building on the Interdisciplinary Biodiversity Initiative.

We will revise the current Terms of Reference for the BIO Board in order to provide the right level of support and guidance needed for BIO’s success.

We are excited about this renewed focus to leverage the stellar work of BIO and establish itself as a world leader in biodiversity science through the creation and translation of research into socially, environmentally, and economically viable outcomes on a global scale.

We will hold a meeting in the future to answer questions; however, if you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

All the best,

Malcolm M. Campbell, PhD
Vice President (Research)

Charlotte A. B. Yates, PhD
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)