

February 19, 2018



Dear Friend of A Rocha,

It is a great privilege to serve on A Rocha Canada's board of directors and to have journeyed with this organization over many years. A Rocha has grown substantially across Canada and its programs now offer a uniquely Christian voice in environmental circles and a gentle voice for creation in Christian circles. It is a highly relevant non-profit, serving well in one of the most urgent sectors of our social fabric.

As you likely know, Markku Kostamo has served A Rocha Canada well since its founding in 2001, having been its first Executive Director and, more recently, its President. What you may not be aware of is that since last July Markku has been on a medical leave.

Over that time the board has worked carefully with Rick Faw, as Acting President, and with the National Management Team as they have sustained A Rocha's work and momentum.

As you are a member of the A Rocha community I want you to know that through much discernment the A Rocha Canada board and Markku have recently decided he will not be returning to his former role as President.

For some time Markku has considered the possibility of a new role partnering with A Rocha International (ARI). Over the next few months this role will be explored by ARI, the A Rocha Canada board and management team, and Markku himself.

As you can imagine, this is a season of significant transition for the organization. For instance, Leah Kostamo has also transitioned from being Communications Director to being Spiritual Care Coordinator for the Brooksdale Centre, and will continue in her role as a key spokesperson and storyteller. This transition for her has been long-awaited, and settles her into areas of her greatest passion. For that we are thankful, and we share in her satisfaction.

As the leadership of A Rocha discerns and adjusts to a new season, please know that the Kostamos and their past and future service to A Rocha continue to be held dear. We reflect on Markku's years of leadership with gratitude, and we anticipate an impactful future for this great organization that he has helped to develop.

With appreciation and anticipation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "jerBell".

Jeremy Bell
Chair, Board of Directors
A Rocha Canada

