

## RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE CHC AGM

January 29, 2015

### RESOLUTION ONE:

WHEREAS the CHC made the following statements in Canadian Honey Council's Submission to Health Canada's call for comments on notice of intent NO12013-01 "ACTION TO PROTECT BEES FROM EXPOSURE TO NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES": - "in certain regions of Canada, our beekeepers are suffering from the prophylactic use of seed treatments and Canada's pesticide regulatory agency must take rapid action to reduce/eliminate the ongoing impacts of pesticide use on bees." - "it is imperative that the use of neonicotinoid seed treatments must be reduced, and where problems exist, they must be addressed as quickly and efficiently as possible." - "With support from growers and their organizations, the CHC would like to see implementation of integrated pest management procedures and a significant use reduction of neonicotinoids in those corn and soy growing areas where current problems have been identified. This reduction should happen in the immediate future as the current situation has jeopardized many beekeeping operations. Co-operative efforts for this to occur need to be undertaken immediately." - "The impacts of neonicotinoids on bees results from their overexposure to this new substance in numerous specific conditions. This overexposure results from both the extensive use of the products as protection on specific crops and it would appear, from the extended exposure period for the pollinators through the season." - "There is a growing body of evidence that the neonicotinoid charge in the environment is building up with the years of continuous use and both the level of exposure and the impacts for the pollinators seem to be increasing particularly in corn and soy growing areas. For instance, there is an indication that bee intoxications caused by the water puddles, is an emergent problem." - "Promoting vague good practice measures is not an adequate answer when the problem results from overuse and not misuse." - "the focus must be enlarged and cover, upstream, the necessity or not to use neonicotinoid treated seeds. The first and most important good practice is to use neonicotinoid treated seeds (or other phytosanitary treatments) only after verifying for the presence of soil damaging pests at levels exceeding economical thresholds." - "crop producers must be convinced that accurate agronomic information pertaining to pests can be obtained in the fall." - "The Canadian Honey Council also feels that it would be very beneficial if there was strong and prescriptive of wording that recommended crop producers have agronomic testing done each fall to determine the need for purchase of treated seed. This reinforces and educates producers while at the same time helps promote an integrated pest management system." - "Data requested from the registrants on the need for continuous use of neonicotinoids must be obtained expeditiously and if it is not delivered in a timely manner, other peer reviewed science based research sources should be considered." - "The Canadian Honey Council recognizes that seed treatments used in an Integrated Pest Management strategy are an important tool for growers across Canada. We strongly encourage PMRA to evaluate the need for massive prophylactic seed treatment." - "Working cooperatively with all players in the industry, and where economics and agronomics dictate, the Canadian Honey Council would like to see implementation of integrated pest management procedures and a rapid and important reduction in the use of treated seed in corn and soy." And Whereas the CHC recommendations above do not appear to have been considered in the preparation of the PMRA Update document on Neonicotinoid Pesticides and Bee Health 25 November 2014; And Whereas the Ontario government announced measures on November 25, 2014 that will, in large part, address some of the issues raised above by the CHC;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC make a public statement in support of the basic principles of the November 25, 2014 initiative by the Ontario Government.

(Note: the Ontario Governments November 25<sup>th</sup> initiative is attached below.)

Moved by Scott Plante  
Approved by the membership

*News Release***Reducing Pesticide Use and Protecting Pollinator Health**

November 25, 2014

**Ontario Sets Goal to Reduce Neonicotinoid Use by 80 Per Cent**

Ontario is taking action to strengthen bird, bee, butterfly and other pollinator health to ensure healthy ecosystems, a productive agricultural sector, and a strong economy.

Pollinators play an important role in Ontario's agricultural productivity. Crops such as apples, cherries, peaches, plums, cucumbers, asparagus, squash, pumpkins, and melons need help from pollinators to grow.

The federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency has found a link between planting corn and soybean seeds treated with neonicotinoids -- an agricultural insecticide -- and bee deaths in Ontario. The province's approach will help keep crops healthy and improve the environment by:

- Working towards a goal of 80 per cent reduction in the number of acres planted with neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed by 2017
- Reducing the over-winter honeybee mortality rate to 15 per cent by 2020
- Establishing a comprehensive Pollinator Health Action Plan

The province will consult on a proposal to reduce the use of neonicotinoid-treated corn and soybean seed. If approved, new rules on the use of neonicotinoids will be in place by July 1, 2015, in time for the 2016 agricultural planting season.

Ensuring a strong and healthy agricultural sector is part of the government's economic plan for Ontario. The four part plan is building Ontario up by investing in people's talents and skills, building new public infrastructure like roads and transit, creating a dynamic, supportive environment where business thrives, and building a secure savings plan so everyone can afford to retire.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Ontario has released a [discussion paper](#) on pollinator health for comment over 60 days on Ontario's Environmental and Regulatory Registries. Consultation sessions will be held in December 2014 and January 2015 to seek input from industry, researchers, organizations and individuals.
- According to the [Ontario Provincial Winter Loss Survey](#), in 2013-14, bee deaths in Ontario reached their highest recorded level at 58 per cent.
- Scientific evidence shows that neonicotinoids harm bees by disrupting their ability to feed, navigate and reproduce, making them more susceptible to bacterium, virus, or other microorganisms that can cause disease.
- Bees and other pollinators are responsible for pollinating roughly 13 per cent of agricultural crops in Ontario (crops worth about \$897 million), and support \$26 million annually in honey production.
- In Ontario we have both wild and managed bee populations. Both make a significant contribution to Ontario's agriculture and environment. In addition to bees, wild pollinators include butterflies, flies, beetles, and other insects.
- Ontario's agri-food sector employs 760,000 individuals and contributes \$34 billion each year to the province's economy.

RESOLUTION TWO:

WHEREAS insecticides are harmful to insects, including pests, beneficial predatory insects, honeybees and wild pollinators; And Whereas we should use as few insecticides as possible to control pests, only when pests are found to be present, in a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM); And Whereas neonicotinoid insecticides have been found to persist and accumulate in the environment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council support reductions of all insecticides, especially those such as neonicotinoids that accumulate in the environment, to levels that are required for sustainable and profitable agricultural production, by the use of IPM.

Moved by Scott Plante  
Approved by the membership

RESOLUTION THREE:

WHEREAS: Canadian beekeepers benefited in 2004 when Queen stocks from Northern California became accessible, in part by CHC members Alberta, British Columbia, Maritimes and Manitoba working co-operatively on risk assessments and import protocols, and;

WHEREAS: In evaluating the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Risk Assessment on the Importation of Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) Packages from the United States of America document released in 2014, it appears risks associated with importation are not uniform across Canada, and

Whereas: MBA, with the assistance of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, critically reviewed each of the risks outlined in the CFIA Risk Assessment, in relation to the threat they posed to Manitoba through packaged bees imported from Northern California areas already supplying Queens to Canada since 2004, and;

WHEREAS: MBA is releasing this “White Paper” document to the public, to inform them of our findings, as well as solicit feedback to help develop the necessary procedures and protocols to mitigate the threats.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That Canadian Honey Council encourages members to review Manitoba’s “White Paper” document on Package Bee Imports from Northern California, as available on [www.manitobabee.org](http://www.manitobabee.org).

Moved by Bryan Ash  
Approved by the membership

RESOLUTION FOUR:

WHEREAS Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has rewritten the honey labelling regulations and these regulations were to be gazetted.

Whereas the CFIA has not attempted to deal with the serious subject of imported honey being labelled as Canada No 1, creating an inaccurate food grading system for consumers; therefore be it resolved that the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association recommend to Canadian Honey Council that they insure that the new grading and labelling regulations which were developed by CHC, CFIA and the honey packers be included in developing the Safe Food for Canadians Act.

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Canadian Honey Council insure that the new grading and labelling regulations which were developed by Canadian Honey Council , Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the honey packers be included in developing the Safe Food for Canadians Act.

Moved by Calvin Parsons  
Approved by the membership

RESOLUTION FIVE:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Canadian Honey Council lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency around clearing up grade labelling confusion of non- Canadian Honey.

Moved by Calvin Parsons

Approved by the membership