



Green Party of Ontario
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Re: Request for position from Ontario Beekeepers' Association

1. Ontario's beekeeping industry has suffered through the loss of thousands of hives in both 2012 and 2013 that Health Canada has confirmed were the result of exposure to neonicotinoid pesticides in soy and corn planting. *Should you be elected to lead the Government of Ontario would you support the Ontario Beekeepers' Association's call for an immediate moratorium (ban) on the sale of the neonicotinoid treated seeds that are killing our bees?*

GPO: Yes. The Green Party is calling on the government to ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, which scientists have blamed for colony collapse, until peer-reviewed scientific research can definitively determine that neonicotinoids do not harm bees. We will continue to advocate for this ban whether elected or not. Mike Schreiner, leader of the GPO, has taken further action on the matter by encouraging the government of Canada to support research on the decline of bee populations. It is essential that we have a thorough understanding of what is causing the decline of bee populations.

2. Ontario is suffering a serious decline in the population of the insect pollinators we rely on for our locally grown foods as the result of the indiscriminate use of neonicotinoid pesticides on field crops. Health Canada and other studies have shown significant amounts of persistent neonicotinoid pesticides in water and soil samples across Ontario. *If elected, will your party declare this an urgent environmental problem?*

GPO: Yes, we recognize the decline of the insect pollinator population to be an urgent environmental problem with even more widespread ramifications. Insect pollinators are integral to our global food system and the global and local economies cannot function without them. We firmly believe that the provincial and federal governments should not put our food supply and our local economy at risk by failing to protect insect pollinators.

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