

Premier Wynne: We need *real* action to protect bees, *now*.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.ONTARIOBEE.COM/NEONICS



Dear Premier Wynne,

In the next 60 days we expect both the Federal and Ontario governments to announce actions on bee health. The choice is clear: take real action and protect Ontario's bees from neonicotinoid pesticides or allow another year of irreversible damage to our bee population and our beekeepers.

Health Canada, for whom we rely on for protection against harmful pesticides, has confirmed the linkage between neonicotinoid pesticides used to treat corn and soybeans and extensive bee-kills in both 2012 and 2013. With over 4 million acres planted in soy and corn in Ontario, we have a situation that beekeepers cannot avoid.

Pesticide lobbyists have tried to create a divide between grain farmers and beekeepers. All farmers aim to be good stewards of their land. No farmer wants to put beekeepers – their fellow farmers – out of business. But if the status quo continues, pesticide companies will continue to profit at the cost of destroying our bees and our livelihoods.

Independent study after study shows the immediate and lasting effects of these pesticides on pollinators, birds and on our soil and water. A thorough scientific review convinced the European Union to ban neonicotinoids this

year. Health Canada, itself, has concluded that, “current agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid treated corn and soy are unsustainable”. In the words of Dr. Peter Kevan, professor of biology at the University of Guelph, “We have a situation with neonicotinoids now which is an exact parallel with the previous situation with DDTs... where there was broad scale use over the entire landscape, and where this poison was everywhere.”

When announcing your Local Food Act this year, you proclaimed: “Supporting local food does so much for Ontario.” Clearly, without pollinators it will be impossible to realize the economic and health benefits of local Ontario foods.

Ontario must lead Canada. The public good of Ontarians is at stake. The OBA, the undersigned supporters and the **65,000** Ontarians who signed our petition, urge you to suspend the use of neonicotinoid pesticides now until we can determine if, or how they can be used safely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Davidson'.

DAN DAVIDSON, PRESIDENT
THE ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION



CO-SIGNERS

BRAMPTON BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE, WINDSOR
DAVID SUZUKI FOUNDATION
DURHAM REGION BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
EASTERN ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
ECOLOGICAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF
ONTARIO (EFAO)
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENCE
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH CANADA
GOLDEN HORSESHOE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

GREY BRUCE AGRICULTURE AND CULINARY
ASSOCIATION
GREY BRUCE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
HURONIA BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
L.E.A.F. (LOCAL ENHANCEMENT AND APPRECIATION
OF FORESTS)
LAKE ONTARIO WATERKEEPERS
LIMESTONE BEEKEEPERS' GUILD
MEAFORD BEE & BUTTERFLY HABITAT INITIATIVE
MEAFORD FARMERS' MARKET
MIDDLESEX, OXFORD, ELGIN BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION
MUSKOKA-PARRY SOUND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION - ONTARIO

ONTARIO HAWKING CLUB
ONTARIO NATURE
ORGANIC COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
PRACTICAL FARMERS OF ONTARIO
PROPOLIS-ETC... BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES
SIERRA CLUB CANADA
SLOW FOOD WELLINGTON COUNTY
SUDBURY DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
TORONTO DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
TRANSITION MEAFORD
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
U OF T BEEKEEPING EDUCATION ENTHUSIAST SOCIETY
URBAN TORONTO BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
WHOLE FOODS MARKET