



FÉDÉRATION DES APICULTEURS
DU QUÉBEC



June 24, 2013

Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Agriculture and Food
Government of Ontario

Hon. Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
Government of Ontario

Hon François Gendron
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Government of Quebec

Hon Yves-François Blanchet
Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Wildlife and Parks
Government of Quebec

Dear Ministers,

On behalf of the beekeepers in Ontario and Quebec we ask that you immediately suspend the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Extensive losses of honey bees and insect pollinators associated with the application of these toxic pesticides to field crops in Quebec and Ontario were documented by PMRA in 2012. Continued high rates of bee kills have been observed and reported this spring as well. The continued use of these pesticides threatens our beekeeping industry, pollination of our fruits and vegetables, contamination of our ground water and persistent buildup of toxins in our soils.

On April 29, 2013 after reviewing more than 30 different studies, the European Union suspended the use of these pesticides for 2 years. We do not need additional research to prove the harmful effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees and other insect pollinators. We need to follow the EU's example.

Studies have shown that planting with untreated seeds usually results in little or no loss of crop production. We are losing colonies daily. There is no reason why we should continue to use these toxic chemicals on our crops and land. On behalf of our industry, our soil and water, and the bees we rely on for the pollination of our fruits and vegetables, we ask you to act now.

Sincerely,

Léo Buteau
President,
Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec

Dan Davidson
President,
Ontario Beekeepers' Association