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Attention: Beekeepers Class Action Counsel

The Newfoundland and Labrador Beekeeping Association (NLBKA) recently received word through contacts at the Ontario Beekeeping Association of your class action suit, and the need for commercial beekeepers to actively opt out of it.

No letter was sent to the Newfoundland & Labrador Beekeeping Association, possibly because you were not aware of our existence. Newfoundland and Labrador presently has only three beekeepers with more than 50 hives, and who might be considered as commercial beekeepers. However, our Association did make them aware of this case and your claim that they have to opt out or will be automatically included in the Class Action.

This is a problematic situation for Newfoundland and Labrador because our honey bees are presently the only “relatively clean” honey bee stock on the continent. We are currently free of Varroa and Tracheal Mites, Small Hive Beetles, Wax Moths, and American Foulbrood. There are strict regulations around all importations in order to keep these pests and pathogens out. All of our beekeepers support the strict regulations and all of them disagree with increased importations from the USA to the rest of Canada.

Therefore, the NLBKA Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to oppose the Class Action and to opt out our members. We have informed our commercial members to say that we have opted out on their behalf unless they told us otherwise. None of them have told us otherwise.

I trust this will suffice to inform you that NLBKA is not participating in this Class Action suit.

Yours truly,

Catherine Dempsey

Catherine Dempsey, President, NLBKA