

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release – September 3, 2014**

## **SISKINDS LLP ANNOUNCES NEONICOTINOID CLASS ACTION**

**LONDON, ONTARIO** – The law firm of Siskinds LLP has launched a class action regarding neonicotinoid pesticides, specifically those containing imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiomethoxam, designed, developed, marketed and produced by Bayer and Syngenta. The action seeks in excess of \$400 million in damages.

Neonicotinoid pesticides are applied to corn, soybean and canola seeds, among others, planted in Canada. The pesticides are designed to travel throughout the plant and attack the nervous systems of insects that come into contact with the roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, pollen and nectar of the plant.

This class action relates to the impact of these pesticides on the bee population and, consequently, on beekeepers who produce honey, provide pollination services and raise Queen Bees essential to the continued production of fruits and vegetables.

The Statement of Claim alleges, among other things, that the defendants were negligent in their design, manufacture, sale and distribution of neonicotinoids. The Statement of Claim alleges that as a result of neonicotinoid use:

- queens, breeding stock and colonies were damaged or died;
- beeswax, honeycombs and hives were contaminated;
- honey production decreased; and
- beekeepers lost profits, and incurred unrecoverable costs.

Paula Lombardi, a partner at Siskinds LLP, remarked on the critical importance of the honeybee to the food chain: “Without a vibrant and healthy bee population, so many of the foods we enjoy will simply no longer grow. We cannot afford to take the bees’ important work for granted, nor can we ignore threats to their survival as a species.”

All beekeepers, including those individuals and companies in the business of honey production, queen bee rearing and/or pollination services between 2006 and the present season, are encouraged to contact either Paula Lombardi at Siskinds LLP at 519-660-7878 or paula.lombardi@siskinds.com, or Nicole Young at Siskinds LLP at 1-877-672-2121 ext. 2380 or nicole.young@siskinds.com, or to visit our website at [www.siskinds.com](http://www.siskinds.com).

### **About Siskinds LLP**

Siskinds LLP is a full-service law firm with offices in Toronto and London, and affiliate offices in Montreal and Quebec City. Siskinds LLP has earned worldwide recognition for its work in plaintiff-side class actions litigation.

*For media inquiries please contact:*

Dimitri Lascaris  
Siskinds LLP  
680 Waterloo Street, PO Box 2520  
London, ON N6A 3V8  
Tel: (519) 660-7844  
Email: [dimitri.lascaris@siskinds.com](mailto:dimitri.lascaris@siskinds.com)