

Honey Bee Report

Prepared for

Friends of Earth Canada



Friends of the Earth
Les Ami(e)s de la Terre

By



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Methodology & Logistics

STUDY SAMPLE

- ◆ This report represents the findings from an October 2013 Oraclepoll omnibus survey of voting age residents (18 years of age or older) in Ontario.
- ◆ Interviews were conducted between the days of October 16th and October 21st 2013.
- ◆ The results provided in this report are from questions commissioned by Friends of Earth Canada (FOE).

CONFIDENCE

- ◆ The margin of error for this 1,000-person survey is +/- 3.1%, 19/20 times

SURVEY METHOD

- ◆ The survey was conducted using computer-assisted techniques of telephone interviewing (CATI) and random number selection. A total of 20% of all interviews were monitored and the management of Oraclepoll Research Limited supervised 100%.

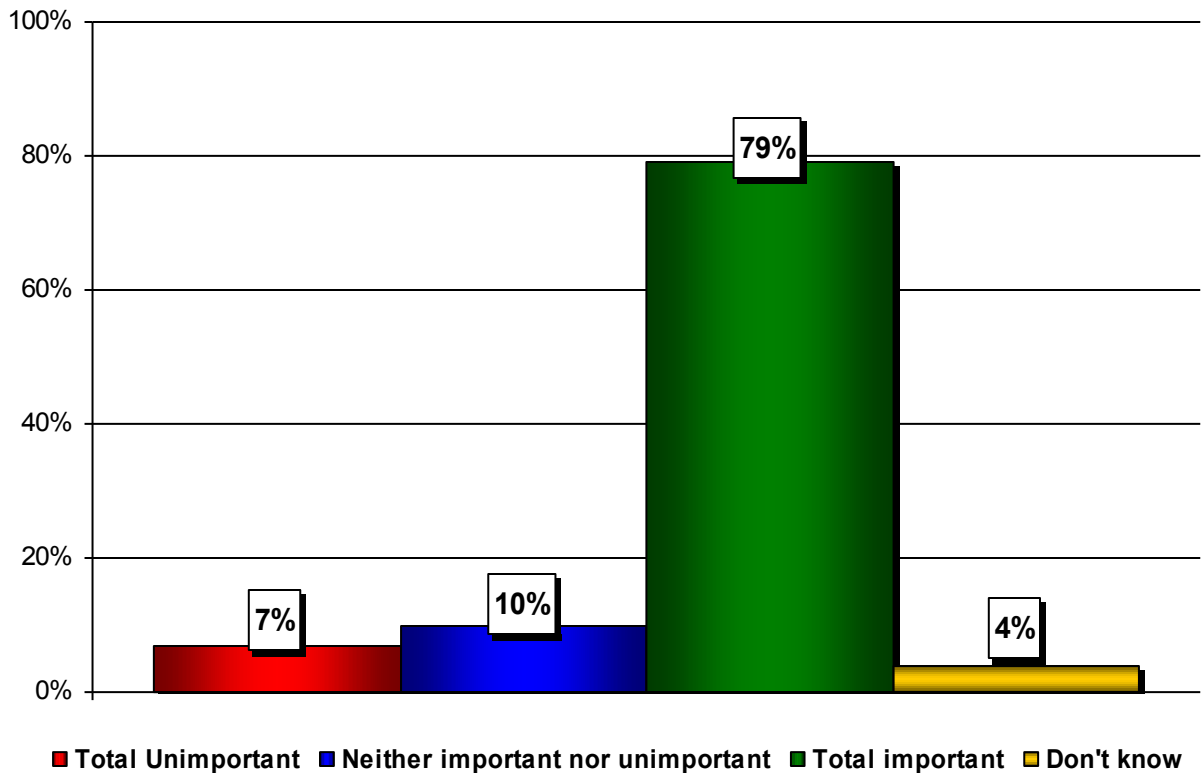
LOGISTICS

- ◆ Initial calls were made between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Subsequent callbacks of no-answers and busy numbers were made on a (staggered) daily rotating basis up to 5 times (from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.) until contact was made. In addition, telephone interview appointments were attempted with those respondents unable to complete the survey at the time of contact.

Executive Summary

Respondents were first asked the following.

“How important do you feel that honey bees are to agriculture in the province of Ontario? Please use a scale from one not at all important to five very important.”

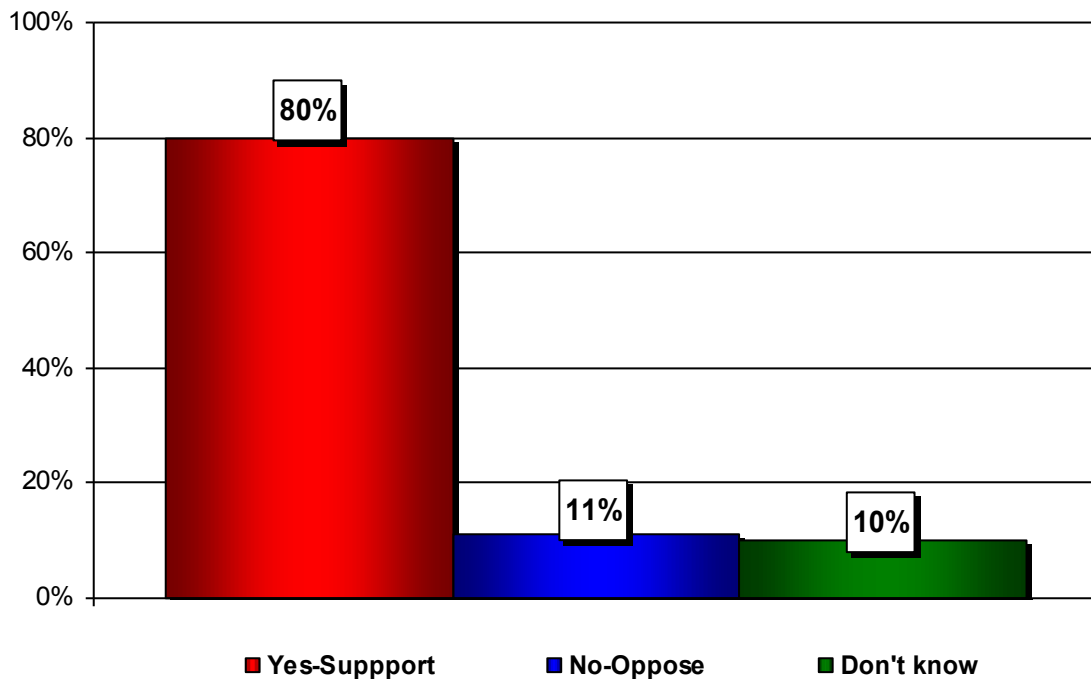


Almost eight in ten Ontarians or 79% are of the opinion that honey bees are important to agriculture in the province of Ontario.

Respondents were then read the following preamble and were then asked a follow up question.

“Currently certain pesticides are being used in the province for commercial agriculture but there is no (OR little) knowledge or research available on how these chemicals affect bee populations in the long term by accumulating in plant nectar, bee hives, water and soil.”

“In your opinion, should the use of these pesticides be suspended in order to protect honey bees?”



An eighty percent majority are in support of a suspension of certain pesticides in order to protect honey bees.

Respondents were then asked about what organizations, agencies or levels of government they felt should be most responsible for researching pesticides that are affecting honey bees and for providing solutions to the problem.

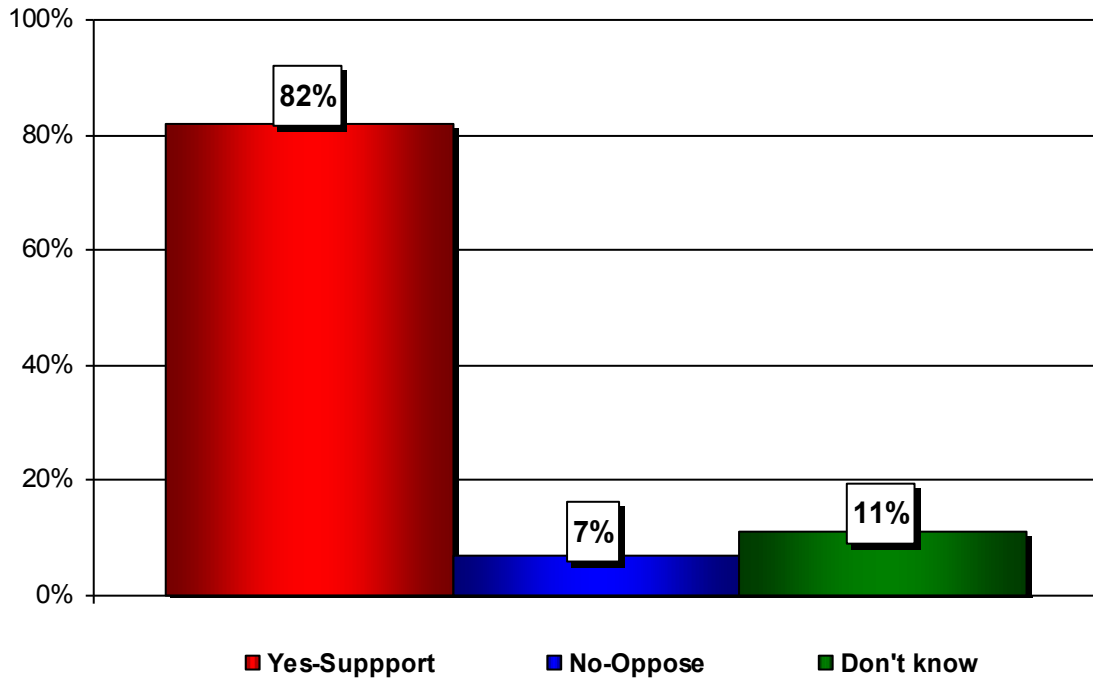
“If it was proven that pesticides used in agricultural production accumulate in the tissue of bees, flowers and plants as well as soil and water, which of the following do you feel should be most responsible to further research this issue and provide solutions?”

	%
Federal Government	31%
Pesticide manufacturers	22%
University scientists	14%
Environmentalists	14%
Provincial government	8%
Farmers or the agricultural industry	4%
Don't know	7%

While there was no dominant response, the Federal Government was named by 31%, followed by 22% that stated pesticide manufacturers, 14% university scientists, 14% environmentalists and 8% the provincial government.

Respondents were then asked the following about neonic pesticide suspension.

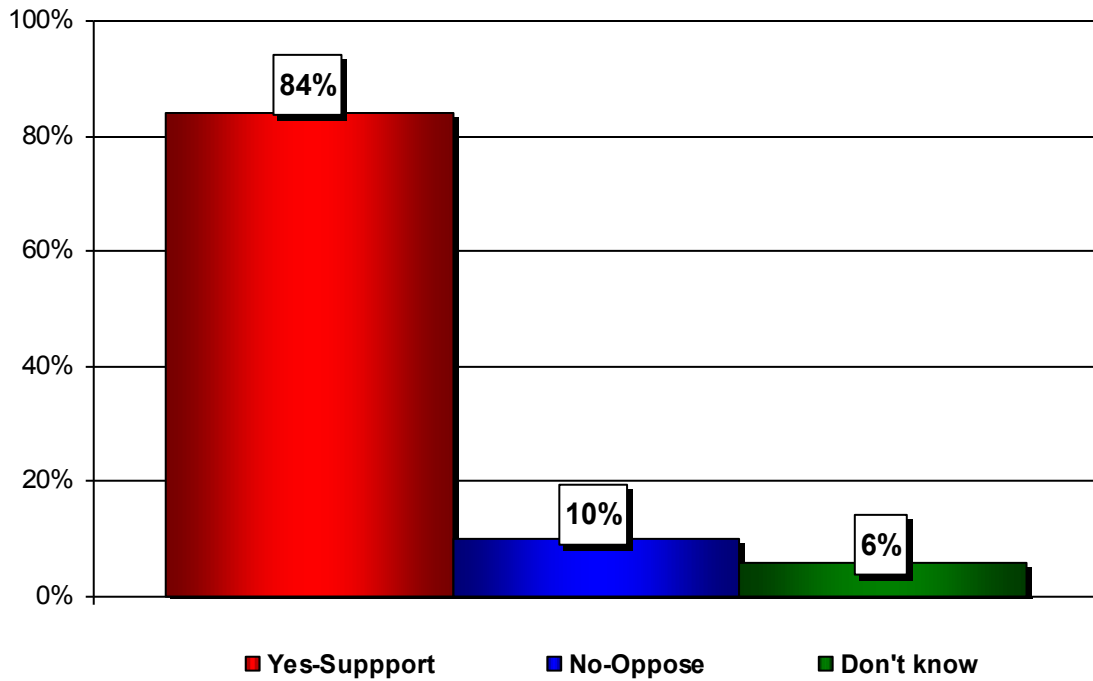
“Would you support or oppose a suspension of neonic (or insecticide based) pesticide usage if you became aware that massive honey bee kills, as a result of their use in agriculture, have occurred in Ontario in the past two years?”



More than eight in ten or 82% would support the suspension of neonic pesticides after they became aware of the honey bee kill offs over the past two years. This compares to 7% that would oppose a suspension, while 11% were unsure.

A follow up question about neonic pesticide suspension in the context of the European Union (EU) decision was then asked.

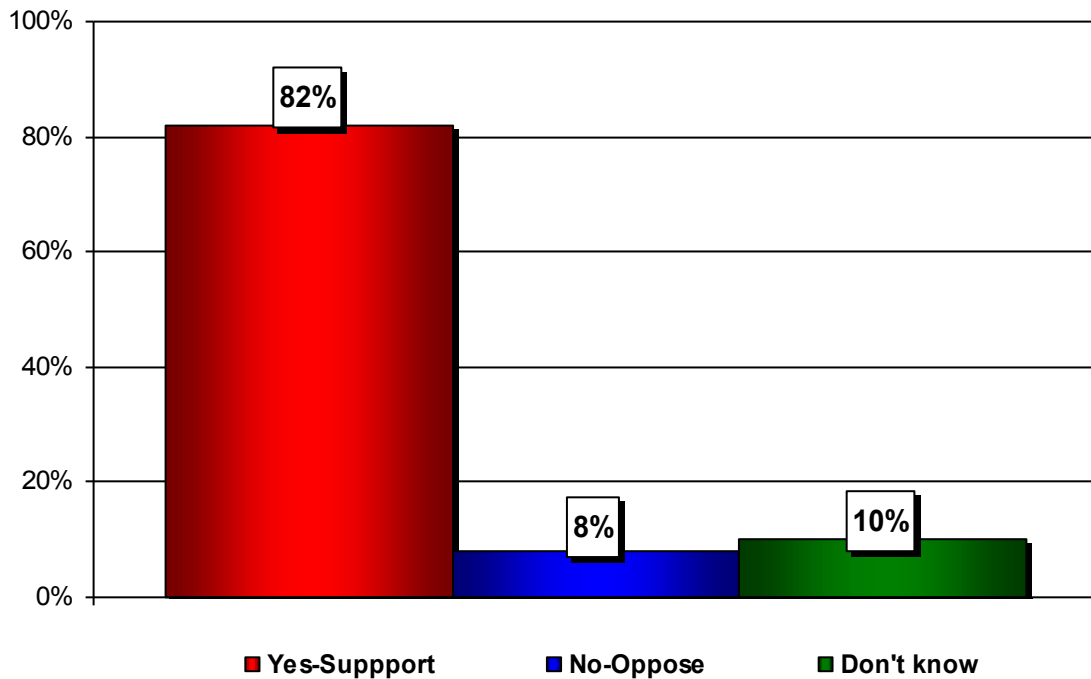
“(And) would you support or oppose a suspension of neonic (or insecticide based) pesticides usage if you became aware that the European Union has suspended their use until they can learn more about their effect on bees and other pollinators?”



A slightly higher (compared to the previous question) 84% would support a neonic pesticide suspension in light of the EU decision, while a higher 10% would oppose this, but fewer or 6% were undecided on the issue.

Respondents were asked about their support for the following.

“Would you support a move by Canada's Minister of Health to suspend the use of neonic pesticides until we understand how to manage their negative impact on honeybees and other pollinators?”

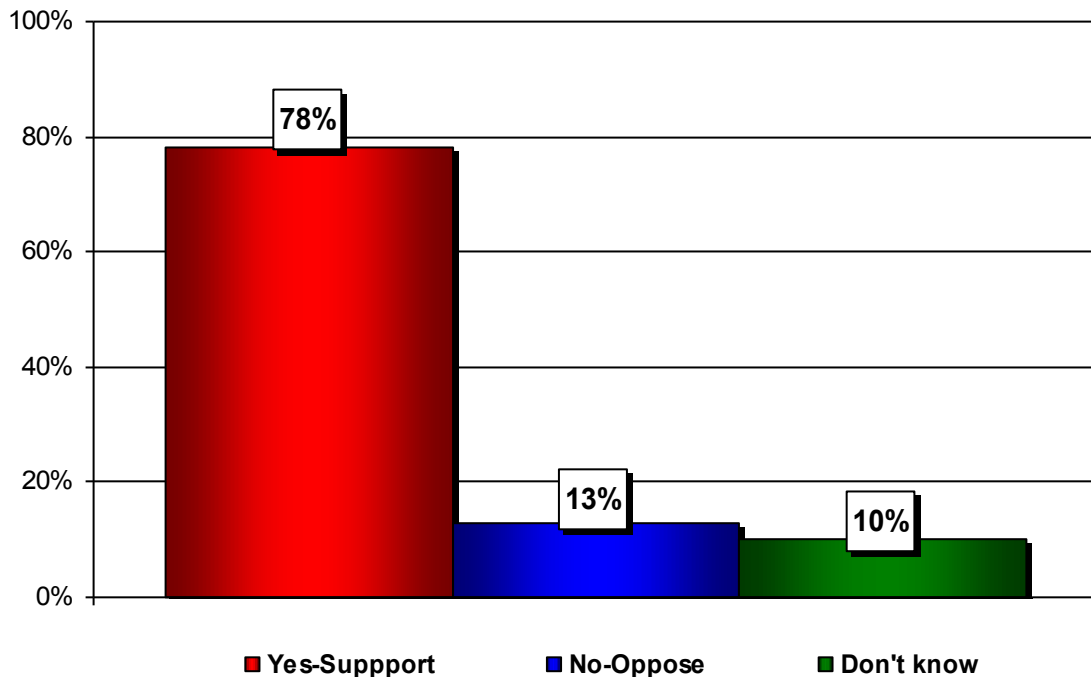


A consistent 82% said that they would support a move by the Federal Health Minister to suspend the use of neonic pesticides until there is a better understanding of how to manage their negative impact. Only 8% would oppose this and 10% did not know or were unsure.

A question followed asking about their support for the Ontario Premier to take action on this issue.

“If the federal government does not act on this issue, The Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne who is also the Minister of Agriculture could suspend the use of neonic pesticides in the province.

Would you support a move by Premier Wynne to suspend the use of neonic pesticides until we understand how to manage their negative impact on honeybees and other pollinator?”



A total of 78% of Ontario voters would support a move by Premier Kathleen Wynne to take action on this issue by suspending the use of neonic pesticides until there is a better understanding of their negative impact on pollinators. Only 13% were opposed and 10% were unsure or undecided,

Those in support of Premier Kathleen Wynne suspending the use of neonic pesticides were then asked the following question.

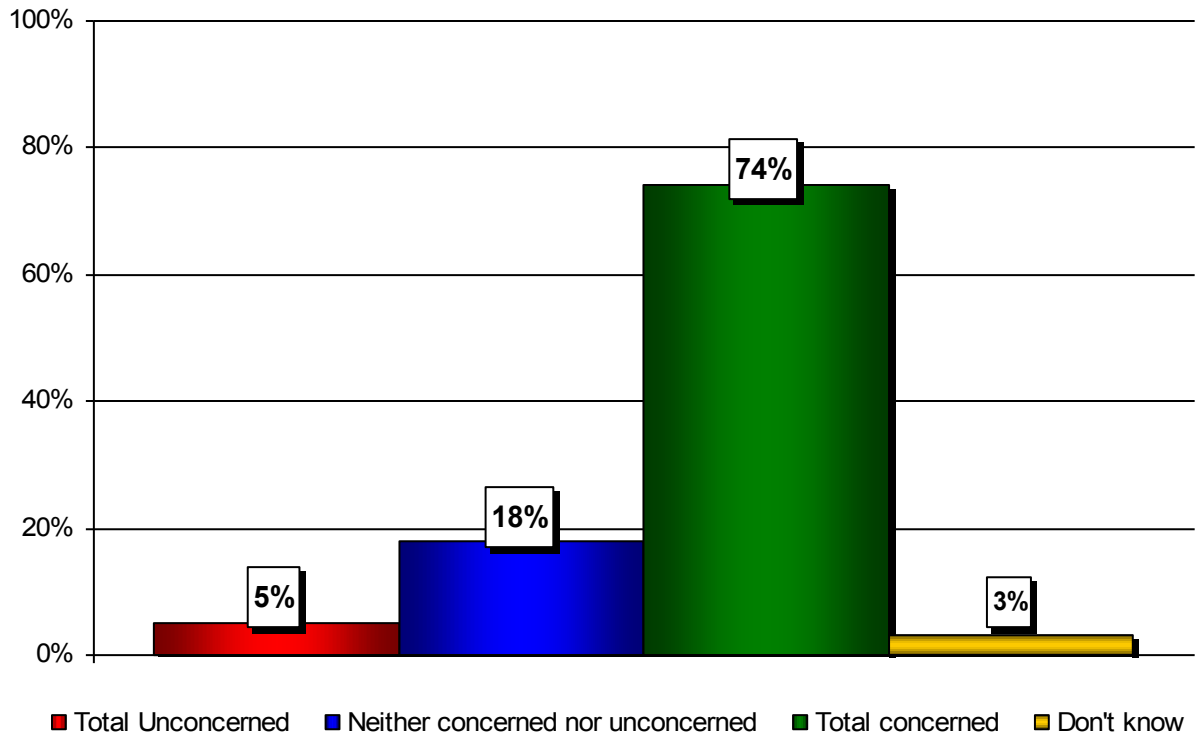
“Which of the following issues is most important to you when it comes to your support for a suspension of neonic pesticides to help save honey bee populations?”

	%
We should do the same as the Europeans in suspending use of these pesticides while more research is done	57%
We should be cautious because not enough known about the accumulation of these pesticides in nectar, bee hives, soil and water	14%
Bees are vital to pollinate crops	12%
Bees are vital to make honey	6%
Don't know	5%
All of the mentions above	4%
Bees are vital to pollinate gardens	2%

The issue that most resonated with 57% of respondents was that they felt Ontarians should do the same as the EU until further research is conducted.

A final question was asked about concern over the future health of honey bee populations in Ontario.

“How concerned are you about the future health of honey bee populations in Ontario? Please use a scale from one not at all concerned to five very concerned.”



Almost three quarters or 74% of those surveyed are concerned about the future health of honey bee populations, compared to only 5% unconcerned, while 18% had a neutral view (neither concerned nor unconcerned) and 3% did not know or were unsure.

Results by Question

Q1. How important do you feel that honey bees are to agriculture in the province of Ontario? Please use a scale from one not at all important to five very important.

	Valid Percent
Not at all important	3.2
Not important	4.2
Neither important nor not important	9.5
Important	26.3
Very important	52.6
Don't know	4.2
Total	100.0

Currently certain pesticides are being used in the province for commercial agriculture but there is no (OR little) knowledge or research available on how these chemicals affect bee populations in the long term by accumulating in plant nectar, bee hives, water and soil.

Q2. In your opinion, should the use of these pesticides be suspended in order to protect honey bees?

	Valid Percent
Yes support	80.0
No oppose	10.5
Don't know	9.5
Total	100.0

Q3. If it was proven that pesticides used in agricultural production accumulate in the tissue of bees, flowers and plants as well as soil and water, which of the following do you feel should be most responsible to further research this issue and provide solutions?

	Valid Percent
Federal government	30.5
Provincial government	8.4
Pesticide manufacturers	22.1
Farmers or the agricultural industry	4.2
University scientists	13.7
Environmentalists	13.7
Don't know	7.4
Total	100.0

Q4. Would you support or oppose a suspension of neonic (or insecticide based) pesticide usage if you became aware that massive honey bee kills, as a result of their use in agriculture, have occurred in Ontario in the past two years?

	Valid Percent
Yes support	82.1
No oppose	7.4
Don't know	10.5
Total	100.0

Q5. (And) Would you support or oppose a suspension of neonic (or insecticide based) pesticides usage if you became aware that the European Union has suspended their use until they can learn more about their effect on bees and other pollinators?

	Valid Percent
Yes support	84.2
No oppose	9.5
Don't know	6.3
Total	100.0

Q6. Would you support a move by Canada's Minister of Health to suspend the use of neonic pesticides until we understand how to manage their negative impact on honeybees and other pollinators?

	Valid Percent
Yes support	82.1
No oppose	8.4
Don't know	9.5
Total	100.0

Q7. If the federal government does not act on this issue, The Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne who is also the Minister of Agriculture could suspend the use of neonic pesticides in the province.

Q7. Would you support a move by Premier Wynne to suspend the use of neonic pesticides until we understand how to manage their negative impact on honeybees and other pollinator?

	Valid Percent
Yes support	77.9
No oppose	12.6
Don't know	9.5
Total	100.0

Q8 ASKED ONLY TO THOSE THAT ANSWERED SUPPORT TO ANY ONE OF THE INDICATORS

Q8. Which of the following issues is most important to you when it comes to your support for a suspension of neonic pesticides to help save honey bee populations?

	Valid Percent
Bees are vital to pollinate gardens	2.4
Bees are vital to pollinate crops	11.9
Bees are vital to make honey	6.0
We should be cautious because not enough known about the accumulation of these pesticides in nectar, bee hives, soil and water	14.3
We should do the same as the Europeans in suspending use of these pesticides while more research is done	57.1
All of them	3.6
Don't know	4.8
Total	100.0

Q9. How concerned are you about the future health of honey bee populations in Ontario? Please use a scale from one not at all concerned to five very concerned.

	Valid Percent
Not at all concerned	2.1
Not concerned	3.2
Neither concerned nor unconcerned	17.9
Concerned	33.7
Very concerned	40.0
Don't know	3.2
Total	100.0

Vote Intent Crosstabulations

When asked about their vote intent if a provincial Election were to be held, the results reveal a three way split among the Ontario electorate. Among decided voters 33% would back the PC's, 32% the Liberals, 30% the NDP and 6% the Green Party. A total of 15% were undecided.

The following crosstabulations show the results of the surveys findings as a function of support for the PC's, Liberals and NDP.

		Q1. How important do you feel that honey bees are to agriculture in the province of Ontario? Please use a scale from one not at all important to five very important.					Don't know
		Not at all important	Not important	Neither important nor not important	Important	Very important	
Vote intent	PC	2.1%	2.1%	6.3%	26.7%	60.8%	2.1%
	Liberal	2.2%	4.3%	15.2%	17.4%	50.0%	10.9%
	NDP	1.3%	1.0%	9.3%	18.6%	67.4%	2.3%

		Q2. In your opinion, should the use of these pesticides be suspended in order to protect honey bees?		
		Yes support	No oppose	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	81.3%	14.6%	4.2%
	Liberal	78.3%	6.5%	15.2%
	NDP	88.4%	9.3%	2.3%

		Q3.If it was proven that pesticides used in agricultural production accumulate in the tissue of bees, flowers and plants as well as soil and water, which of the following do you feel should be most responsible to further research this issue and provide so						
		Federal government	Provincial government	Pesticide manufacturers	Farmers or the agricultural industry	University scientists	Environment alists	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	43.8%	10.4%	16.7%	6.3%	6.3%	14.6%	2.1%
	Liberal	41.3%	8.7%	15.2%		8.7%	6.5%	19.6%
	NDP	25.6%	4.7%	23.3%		27.9%	9.3%	9.3%

		Q4. Would you support or oppose a suspension of neonic (or insecticide based) pesticide usage if you became aware that massive honey bee kills, as a result of their use in agriculture, have occurred in Ontario in the past two years?		
		Yes support	No oppose	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	79.2%	6.3%	14.6%
	Liberal	82.6%	6.5%	10.9%
	NDP	95.3%	2.3%	2.3%

		Q5. (And) Would you support or oppose a suspension of neonic (or insecticide based) pesticides usage if you became aware that the European Union has suspended their use until they can learn more about their effect on bees and other pollinators?		
		Yes support	No oppose	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	85.4%	10.4%	4.2%
	Liberal	87.0%	6.5%	6.5%
	NDP	93.0%	4.7%	2.3%

		Q6. Would you support a move by Canada's Minister of Health to suspend the use of neonic pesticides until we understand how to manage their negative impact on honeybees and other pollinators?		
		Yes support	No oppose	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	79.2%	6.3%	14.6%
	Liberal	84.8%	8.7%	6.5%
	NDP	93.0%	4.7%	2.3%

		Q7. If the federal government does not act on this issue, The Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne who is also the Minister of Agriculture could suspend the use of neonic pesticides in the province. Would you support a move by Premier Wynne to suspend the use neonic pesticides until we understand how to manage their negative impact on honeybees and other pollinator?		
		Yes support	No oppose	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	66.7%	22.9%	10.4%
	Liberal	80.4%	6.5%	13.0%
	NDP	93.0%	4.7%	2.3%

		Q8. Which of the following issues is most important to you when it comes to your support for a suspension of neonic pesticides to help save honey bee populations?						
		Bees are vital to pollinate gardens	Bees are vital to pollinate crops	Bees are vital to make honey	We should be cautious because not enough known about the acc	We should do the same as the Europeans in suspending use of	All of them	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	4.5%	9.1%	2.3%	18.2%	65.9%		
	Liberal		19.5%	4.9%	14.6%	46.3%	4.9%	9.8%
	NDP		14.3%	11.9%	2.4%	66.7%	4.8%	

		Q9. How concerned are you about the future health of honey bee populations in Ontario? Please use a scale from one not at all concerned to five very concerned.					
		Not at all concerned	Not concerned	Neither concerned nor unconcerned	Concerned	Very concerned	Don't know
Vote intent	PC	2.1%	2.3%	16.0%	31.3%	44.2%	4.2%
	Liberal	2.2%	4.3%	7.4%	30.4%	49.1%	6.5%
	NDP	2.3%		11.6%	39.5%	44.2%	2.3%