



ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
Since 1881

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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

### **ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS AND THE NEONICOTINOID CLASS ACTION**

**Milton, ON.** The Ontario Beekeepers' Association is notifying Ontario beekeepers that a class action has been filed by Siskinds LLP to recover damages suffered by beekeepers due to the widespread use of neonicotinoid pesticides. If successful, beekeepers who join the Class could recover losses and damages from as far back as 2006.

The Statement of Claim alleges, among other things, that Bayer (CropScience) and Syngenta were negligent in their manufacture, sale and distribution of neonicotinoids in Ontario that caused beekeepers to suffer significant losses and damage. These losses include killed or weakened bees; non-productive queens and bee colonies; breeding stock; contaminated wax, combs and hives; reduced honey production and lost profits; costs incurred to meet honey and pollination contracts; and increased labour, equipment and supply expenses. This class action seeks to recover these losses.

“While the OBA is not directly involved in this action, we support any effort that could help beekeepers recover losses caused by the overuse of neonicotinoids”, said OBA VP Tibor Szabo, “This Action puts the blame where it belongs - on the pesticide manufacturers.”

In Ontario, neonicotinoids have been applied to 4.2 million acres, or nearly all corn seeds and 65% of soy seeds. The link between neonicotinoid use and colony losses has been confirmed by Health Canada. The Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists reported that Ontario beekeepers lost 58% of their hives last winter, more than three times the average of the rest of Canada. According to OBA President, Dan Davidson, beekeepers are also reporting significant summer losses.

Beekeepers or companies in the business of honey production, queen bee rearing and/or pollination services who are interested in participating should contact Siskinds LLP directly via Paula Lombardi at [paula.lombardi@siskinds.com](mailto:paula.lombardi@siskinds.com) or 1-877-672-2121 ext. 7878.

*For media inquiries please contact:*

Bernie Wiehle, [berniewiehle@gmail.com](mailto:berniewiehle@gmail.com) or 519.614.3686

Julie White, [enews@ontariobee.com](mailto:enews@ontariobee.com) or 647.988.5942