



November 26, 2019

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, MPP – Brampton South  
Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction

Hon. Goldie Ghamari, MPP – Carleton; Chair, Legislative Assembly of Ontario Standing Committee on  
General Government

Jocelyn McCauley, Clerk of the OLA Standing Committee on General Government

Re: The unilateral decision to repeal the *Bees Act* as part of Bill 132, *Better for People, Smarter for  
Business Act, 2019-11-24*

Via email: Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria ([prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org](mailto:prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org))  
Hon. Goldie Ghamari ([goldie.ghamari@pc.ola.org](mailto:goldie.ghamari@pc.ola.org))  
Jocelyn McCauley ([jmccauley@ola.org](mailto:jmccauley@ola.org)); [comm-generalgov@ola.org](mailto:comm-generalgov@ola.org)

Dear Associate Minister Singh, Chair Ghamari, Clerk McCauley,

Since 1881 the Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) has represented the interests of Ontario beekeepers and the business of beekeeping. We work on behalf of all Ontario beekeepers to ensure a thriving and sustainable beekeeping industry in this province. To this end, we advocate for beekeepers' interests, support honey bee health research and deliver practical training and information.

On May 29, 2019, the Government of Ontario stated online their intention to repeal the [Bees Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. B.6](#).

On October 29, 2019 the Government of Ontario announced Bill 132, including the intention to repeal the *Bees Act* as part of Bill 132 on a day to be proclaimed.

#### SCHEDULE 4 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Health Act, 2009 The Schedule amends the Animal Health Act, 2009 by repealing and substantively re-enacting subsections 67 (2), (3) and (4) and sections 72, 73 and 74. These provisions are subject to repeal by section 10.1 of the Legislation Act, 2006 on December 31, 2019. **These amendments would continue to provide for the repeal of the *Bees Act*, the Livestock Community Sales Act and the Livestock Medicines Act on a day to be proclaimed.**

The *Bees Act* contains important provisions relating to honey bee health, registrations and inspection of colonies, which are unique to, and directly affect, all aspects of the health of honey bees and the responsibilities therein of beekeepers and of the Government of Ontario.

***It is the position of the OBA that honey bee management and the health of bees is unique and separate from other Animals covered under the Animal Health Act. Any changes to the Bees Act should be reviewed and approved by the OBA to ensure that they accommodate our members and the interests of bee health, beekeeping and the business and sustainability of Ontario beekeeping.***

We do not presuppose that there are regulations within the *Bees Act* that could be streamlined to serve beekeepers better. However, during this amendment process the *Bees Act* must remain in place.

**Repealing it without a suitable replacement approved by beekeepers is not acceptable and counterproductive to the business of beekeeping and to the Government of Ontario's goals for the Act.**

*"The Better For People, Smarter For Business Act, 2019 is the latest in a series of red tape reduction measures that will continue to deliver meaningful results for Ontario — unburdening business, bringing new opportunities, and setting us up for success in years to come."*

The OBA is prepared to immediately strike a Bees Act Committee to work with OMAFRA to review all aspects of the *Bees Act* within a defined timetable and to deliver to the Government on a defined date within no more than six months, a consensus report of specific recommendations that would improve and streamline the Act.

The OBA and the Government of Ontario have enjoyed a long and productive working relationship. Let us move forward together.

Sincerely,



André Flys, President  
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