



**FÉDÉRATION DES APICULTEURS
DU QUÉBEC**

Longueuil, March 31 2015

Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar, DMV
Chief Veterinary Officer and Executive Director of the Animal Health Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
Animal Health Directorate
59 Camelot Drive, 3rd Floor, suite 225
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0Y9

Sir,

In the course of its Annual General Assembly, which was held on January 29 2015 the Canadian Honey Council adopted a resolution by which it encouraged its members to review the Manitoba Beekeepers Association' "White Paper" document on Package Bee Imports from Northern California, in their province.

Following this request, the Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec, (Quebec Beekeepers Federation), analyzed the document. As per the resolution below, it wishes to strongly reiterate the position originally taken in its unanimous April 16, 2013 resolution (see attached) and confirm its unequivocal opposition to the importation of bees from California or any other American state in Canada.

On March 31 2015, the Board of Directors of the Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec adopted the following resolution:

Reiterating its concerns and the position detailed in its April 16 2013 resolution, by which it categorically opposed the importation of honey bee hives and/or nucleus colonies and/or packages from the United States (attached);

Whereas: the Africanized bee represents a serious risk for beekeepers' health and that of the general population;

Whereas: all the underlying causes of the persisting colony collapse disorder syndrome in the United States, some of which are most likely to be transmissible, have not yet been identified;

Whereas: the very weak level of control of bee colonies transhumance, which remains an important phenomenon in the United States, encourages the spread of diseases, parasites and pests throughout the American territory;

Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec

555, boul. Roland-Therrien, bureau 225, Longueuil (Québec) J4H 4E7
Téléphone : 450 679-0540, poste 8601 | Télécopieur : 450 463-5226
Courriel : apiculteur@upa.qc.ca | www.apiculteursduquebec.com

Whereas: the impossibility to completely confine bees in one physical area and to establish a secure quarantine zone (of at least 10 kilometers) makes disease, parasite and pest containment a particularly arduous task;

The Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec:

Believes that the Manitoba Beekeepers Association underestimates the risks created by the Africanized bee, the antibiotic-resistant American foulbrood, the small hive beetle and the Amitraz-resistant varroa mite and **considers** the mitigation measures proposed in its White Paper to be insufficient;

Urges the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to uphold its prohibition of honey bee hives and/or nucleus colonies and/or packages importation from the United States;

Calls upon the CFIA to formally and forcefully oppose any attempt by the Manitoba Beekeepers Association to circumvent its authority and ignore its interdiction by trying to obtain a Federal-Provincial Import Permit on the sole basis of economic considerations.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and we hope that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will take the Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec position into account.

Please accept, Mr Kochhar, our most sincere salutations.



Christine Jean
Executive Director

cc. Dr Pascal Moreau, Dre Connie Rajzman

Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec

555, boul. Roland-Therrien, bureau 225, Longueuil (Québec) J4H 4E7
Téléphone : 450 679-0540, poste 8601 | Télécopieur : 450 463-5226
Courriel : apiculteur@upa.qc.ca | www.apiculteursduquebec.com



**FÉDÉRATION DES APICULTEURS
DU QUÉBEC**

**Résolution adoptée lors de la réunion du conseil d'administration
de la Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec
tenue le 16 avril 2013**

Considérant la dispersion non contrôlée de l'abeille africanisée aux États-Unis;
Considérant la présence endémique du petit coléoptère de la ruche aux États-Unis;
Considérant la résistance aux États-Unis du varroa (*Varroa destructor*) à l'Amitraz;
Considérant qu'aux États-Unis les abeilles sont très sensibles au syndrome d'effondrement des colonies d'abeilles;
Considérant que l'approvisionnement peut se faire à partir d'autres pays qui ont un statut sanitaire comparable à celui du Canada;
Sur motion dûment proposée et appuyée, il est résolu unanimement que la Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec demande à l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments (ACIA) de maintenir l'interdiction de l'importation de ruches et/ou nucléi et/ou paquets d'abeilles mellifères en provenance des États-Unis.

Copie conforme

Christine Jean
Directrice générale

Fédération des apiculteurs du Québec

555, boul. Roland-Therrien, bureau 225, Longueuil (Québec) J4H 4E7
Téléphone : 450 679-0540, poste 8601 | Télécopieur : 450 463-5226
Courriel : apiculteur@upa.qc.ca | www.apiculteursduquebec.com