



April 3, 2018

Ms. Debra Sikora
Assistant Deputy Minister, Food Safety and
Environment Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Ms. Sarah Rang
Director of Policy, Minister's Office
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Re: ECO Recognition Award for Protecting Ontario Pollinators

Via email: debra.sikora@ontario.ca; sarah.rang@ontario.ca

Dear Debra and Sarah,

*The question is whether any civilization can wage relentless war on life
without destroying itself, and without losing the right to be called civilized.*

— Rachel Carson

On behalf of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to you and your staff on the occasion of receiving the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's ECO Recognition Award.

With government and industry working together, we were able to achieve an historic breakthrough with a policy to protect Ontario's pollinators. This award recognizes the courageous stand taken by the government of Ontario in the face of measured opposition from an industry that has little regard for its impact on our environment and the food we need to sustain life.

By introducing the *Pollinator Health Action Plan*, Ontario has established itself as a global leader by taking steps to protect insect pollinators. We will, however, be judged by the health and vigour of our insect pollinators. We look forward to working with you in the months and years to come, to ensure Ontario has a sustainable bee population and beekeeping industry

Sincerely,

Jim Coneybeare
President

cc: Hon Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Hon Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Chris Ballard, Pembina Institute
Lois Corbett, Conservation Council
Peter Cleary, Santis Health
Dr. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario