



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: 421-01112

BY: MS. MAY (SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS)

DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2017

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE LAWRENCE MACAULAY, PC, MP

Response by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence MacAulay".

SIGNATURE
Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Pesticides

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) works with beekeepers, federal and provincial officials and other relevant groups to ensure that beekeeping is a successful industry in Canada. AAFC work supports efforts to improve honey bee health. AAFC has several initiatives underway to gather, develop, and consider relevant evidence in order to improve bee health in Canada. AAFC works nationally with provincial governments and other federal departments and agencies as well as industry representation from the beekeeping, honey, horticulture, grains, oilseeds, seeds and crop protection sectors through the Bee Health Roundtable (BHRT) to consider issues affecting honey bee health. The BHRT's work includes the development of a pollinator strategy, national bee health monitoring strategy, national integrated bee health research strategy, and activities to support best management practices by beekeepers and crop producers.

Further, AAFC committed \$1 million to the Beekeepers Commission of Alberta in July 2014 to conduct a four-year, nationwide surveillance project to document the health profile of honey bee colonies in Canada. The project, currently underway, is sampling bee hives to determine the prevalence of pests and diseases, as well as assessing hive contaminants in order to provide a national 'baseline' of bee health challenges.

AAFC also continues to conduct research on the complex issues of long-term bee health including screening for the presence of neonicotinoids and other pesticide residues in pollen, honey and beeswax, as well as research on native pollinators and the effects of other agricultural practices.

The registration and regulation of pesticides in Canada falls under the responsibility of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency under the Authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*. AAFC recognizes the importance of pesticides in supporting the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in Canada. Pesticides play a crucial role in controlling pests; help to protect the yield and quality of crops; and, are a valuable tool when applied according to strict regulatory guidelines and integrated as part of a best management practices regime.