

ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS

2006 Annual General Meeting

Passed Resolutions

1. WHEREAS the Alberta honey industry has an excellent records on food safety;

WHEREAS the government and the honey industry in Alberta have continually worked together to create a strong food safety system to ensure the high quality of Alberta honey that meets world market demands and consumers expectations;

WHEREAS more honey products are being sold to world markets and from direct farm gate sales, including farmers market;

WHEREAS trade requirements are evolving, and the need for assurance or compliance based on science is increasing;

BE IT RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** support revising the Honey Grading regulations to include:

- Provision for the Provincial Apiculturist or designee to obtain samples of honey produced in Alberta to test for compliance with honey quality standards in order to maintain high standards of food safety and increase the marketability of Alberta honey.
- Ensure label and grading requirements are consistent with the CFIA honey regulations.

2. WHEREAS Alberta beekeepers feel that there is a problem with the current retail honey labeling regulations, and;

WHEREAS the current negotiation seems to indicate that this issue will not be resolved in a timely manner and to the benefit of Alberta beekeepers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the **Alberta Beekeepers Commission** continues to participate in the negotiation process so that the outcome will be beneficial to the **Alberta Beekeepers Commission** members, and to provide clear product information to the consumer.

3. WHEREAS the Small Hive Beetle has been found in Alberta as a new pest;

WHEREAS the bee regulation includes all known pests of the honey bee that found in Alberta.

BE IT RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** supports the addition of the Small Hive Beetle *Athena tumida* to the list of honey bee pests in the Bee Regulation in Alberta;

4. WHEREAS the Alberta beekeeping industry has been growing at an unprecedented rate;

WHEREAS the honey bee health is vital for the sustainability of the Alberta beekeeping industry;

WHEREAS the Alberta Bee Act and its regulations ensure maintaining healthy bees in Alberta;

WHEREAS the number of abandoned bee colonies that are infected with highly infectious bee diseases i.e. American Foul Brood are increasing and represents a high risk to beekeeping operations across Alberta;

WHEREAS the continuous increase of spreading infectious diseases such as American Foul Brood increases the dependence on the use of antibiotics that could compromise the quality of Alberta honey;

WHEREAS the industry is now expected to work in a partnership with Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development to support resolving issues that threaten the sustainability of the beekeeping industry;

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development strengthen their inspection and surveillance program of abandoned equipment to ensure maintaining a healthy beekeeping industry in Alberta and take the necessary actions as stated in the Bee Act to eradicate the infected bee colonies.

5. WHEREAS the Alberta Beekeeping industry has expanded their number of colonies over the past ten years from 150,000 to reach 250,000 hives, and;

WHEREAS the beekeeping industry is widespread across the five regions of the province, and;

WHEREAS the beekeeping industry is going through a transition time facing unprecedented pressure from disease and pest resistant to registered pesticides and antibiotics,

WHEREAS the Small Hive Beetle has been found in Alberta and it requires more extension to teach beekeepers new management systems and;

WHEREAS the Hybrid Canola Seed Industry is growing steadily in Alberta and requires more supply of healthy bees to continue its expansion, and;

WHEREAS honey bees are a major contributors to the agriculture economy and rural development in Alberta;

BE RESOLVED Alberta Beekeepers request from Alberta Agriculture Food and Rural Development to strengthen the Apiculture Program and provide adequate staff to meet these challenges facing our industry to enable this industry to continue growing and meet pollination needs of the Hybrid Canola Seed Industry and contribute to growth strategy in Alberta.

6. WHEREAS labor shortages in Alberta are occurring in many industries including agriculture;

WHEREAS Human Resources and Social Development Canada has a process to follow in approving applications for seasonal foreign workers as determined by federal regulations that are time consuming and repetitive on an annual basis;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers urge Human Resources and Social Development Canada office in Alberta to work with their counterparts in the federal government to establish regulations for a three year program for foreign seasonal agricultural workers in Alberta.

7. WHEREAS there is a continuous need to promote honey;

BE IT RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** allocate \$20,000 for promotion of Canadian honey.

8. *Defeated.*

9. WHEREAS the Risk Assessment has shown low risk of the Small Hive Beetle in the Canadian beekeeping industry, and;

WHEREAS some safety measures can be taken to reduce the risk associated with the attendant workers in queen batteries, and;

WHEREAS bringing queens in batteries will facilitate the use of current conditions for queen imports to a fuller extent;

BE IT RESOLVED that current conditions for queen importation be revised to allow importing queens in battery cages.

10. WHEREAS the Risk Assessment has shown low risk of the Small Hive Beetle in the Canadian beekeeping industry, and;

WHEREAS some safety measures can be taken to reduce the risk associated with the attendant workers in queen batteries, and;

WHEREAS bringing queens in batteries will facilitate the use of current conditions for queen imports to a fuller extent, and;

WHEREAS consideration must be given to other beekeeping regions of Canada with regard to concerns on the importation of queen bees;

BE IT RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** in conjunction with Canadian Honey Council request Canadian Food Inspection Agency to approve derogation to the existing importation protocol to allow for queen importation in battery boxes.

11. WHEREAS **Alberta Beekeepers**, as a newly formed commission, has increased resources with which to serve the industry, and;

WHEREAS there are constantly new issues arising in the beekeeping industry, and;

WHEREAS **Alberta Beekeepers** has an obligation to its members to be fully accountable and to utilize these resources as prudently as possible;

BE IT RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** seek internal and external counsel to maximize the overall impact the **Alberta Beekeepers** Board of Directors can have in the operations of the Commission for the benefit of the beekeeping industry in Alberta.

12. WHEREAS the provincial government has shown a reluctance to turn the means of “bear control” via barrel traps, over to beekeepers;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Problem Wildlife Committee pursues a compensation program for bear damage as one alternative solution to the bear problem.