

# ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS COMMISSION

## 2007 Annual General Meeting Passed Resolutions

### 1. Alberta Young Farmers

WHEREAS there is a shortage of young people getting involved in farming in Alberta, and;

WHEREAS beekeepers in Alberta are directly affected by the lack of young people involved in farming, and;

WHEREAS the Alberta Young Farmers are committed to supporting and encouraging young people getting into farming,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers make a \$200 dollar contribution to assist with the Alberta Young Farmers Annual General Meeting in March.

### 2. Defeated

### 3. Honey & Human Health

**WHEREAS a Committee for the Promotion of Honey and Health has been formed to work to promote an understanding of the health benefits of honey and;**

WHEREAS organizations and individuals are invited to join the Committee and its work and;

WHEREAS a similar project for tea resulted in increased sales and;

WHEREAS this Committee is sponsoring an International Symposium on this subject at the time and place of American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) and American Honey Producers Association (AHPA) joint meeting in Sacramento in January 2008;

BE IT RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** become a charter member of this Committee (for apparently \$50) and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** send Shirzad Chunara of the Honey Review team to Sacramento for the January meeting, and that the **Alberta Beekeepers** Board be responsible for direction of the Honey Review team following that meeting.

### 4. Varroa Control

WHEREAS the Canadian beekeeping industry appears to have no long-term strategy to protect itself from the devastation caused by Varroa mites, let the Alberta Beekeepers take the leadership in this regard.

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Beekeepers undertake to make fenoppyrate, flumethrin, and Amitraz available to Canadian beekeepers. These products are all registered for use in Organisation for Economic Cooperative Development (OECD) countries, and thus are available to Canadian beekeepers through emergency registration. Full registration could be acquired in time. Their availability would give Alberta beekeepers a reliable rotation of registered products that are efficacious, and safe. Having so many products would reduce the impact and inevitability of Varroa resistance to any one product. Furthermore, other provinces would inevitably follow suit, thus creating the possibility of relief from this pest on a national level.

## **5. Administration of the Apiculture Program**

WHEREAS the honey bee is regulated in Canada under the HEALTH OF ANIMALS ACT, and;

WHEREAS the honey bee's animal health and zoonoses are included in the developed standards, guidelines and recommendations under the auspices of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), and;

WHEREAS the food safety standards, guidelines and recommendations for honey is established by the Codex alimentarius Commission, and;

WHEREAS the honey grading regulations is included in the Live Stock Products Act administered by Environment and Food Safety Sector -Alberta Agriculture and Food, and;

WHEREAS the apiculture program in various countries around the world has been a part of the Food and Animal Safety sectors to meet industry needs, and;

WHEREAS surveillance has become an important part of managing bee health to reduce the spread of highly contagious diseases and high winter kill;

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED that Alberta Agriculture and Food be requested to make a realignment so that the Apiculture program and related acts and regulations be moved to be administered by Agri Food System- Environment and Food Safety sector- Alberta Agriculture and Food to enhance the response to the needs of honey bee health and to maintain a competitive beekeeping industry to serve Alberta Agriculture and Food.

## **6. Dine Alberta and the Falher Honey Festival**

WHEREAS any program that promotes the consumption and use of Alberta honey furthers the purposes of Alberta Beekeepers, and

WHEREAS *Dine Alberta* and the *Falher Honey Festival* are two made in Alberta programs that promote the use of Alberta honey

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Beekeepers provide financial and other support to these and similar programs at a level to be decided annually by the Board of Directors.

## **7. Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN)**

WHEREAS forage crops in Alberta are important sources of nectar for Alberta beekeepers and;

WHEREAS a strong Alberta forage industry is in the best interests of Alberta beekeepers and;

WHEREAS there is an attempt in place to form a new Alberta Forage Industry Network (AFIN);

BE IT RESOLVED that **Alberta Beekeepers** make a \$200 contribution to assist in start up costs and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a member of the Board of Directors attend, if feasible, meetings of this organization and that future involvement be considered at the 2008 AGM.

### **8. Withdrawn**

### **9. Defeated**

### **10. Aid to Alberta Beekeepers**

WHEREAS Alberta Agriculture and Food has established losses to beekeepers for the winter of 2006 and 2007 at \$16.7-\$24 million and;

Further that the Agriculture recovery section of the Agricultural policy framework is designed to cover such catastrophic losses;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers pursue this matter with the Federal Government.

### **11. Support Canadian Honey Council Restructuring**

WHEREAS Canadian Honey Council has been inadequately funded to properly meet the needs of the Canadian beekeeping industry, and;

WHEREAS Canadian Honey Council has in previous years found it difficult to meet the needs of an ever changing and demanding Canadian Beekeeping industry, and;

WHEREAS, Canadian Honey Council has endeavored to re define its purpose and roles and to establish a reasonable budget to accomplish these purposes and roles, and;

WHEREAS Canadian Honey Council will be modifying its bylaws regarding the role and purpose it will play in the Canadian beekeeping industry; who will comprise the membership of Canadian Honey Council and how they will participate; and the fee structure associated with participation in Canadian Honey Council;

WHEREAS it is recognized that a national voice is an invaluable asset to beekeepers in Canada, especially in the areas of pest and disease control; food safety; import and export regulations; labeling of honey; research and honey promotion;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) We the members of **Alberta Beekeepers Commission** do hereby agree to extend the benefit of participation in the Canadian Honey Council to our members.
- 2) We the members of **Alberta Beekeepers Commission** do hereby agree to contribute our associated fees, as requested by Canadian Honey Council. And where additional fees or levies are necessary to meet the said obligation give endorsement to our Board to do so.
- 3) We find it beneficial to remain in, contribute to and receive benefit from our organization participating in Canadian Honey Council.

#### **12. Membership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture**

WHEREAS the beekeeping industry needs a greater federal presence;

BE IT RESOLVED that the **Alberta Beekeepers** encourage Canadian Honey Council to seek membership with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

#### **13. Importation of Honey Bee Packages from mainland U.S.A.**

WHEREAS many beekeepers experienced high hive loss and have had difficulty restocking dead outs;

BE IT RESOLVED that the **Alberta Beekeepers** diligently pursue the opening of the Canada/US border to the importation of honey bee packages.

#### **14. ‘Pierre the Bear’ advertising campaign**

WHEREAS the promotion of Alberta honey will directly result in profits for beekeepers in Alberta;

BE IT RESOLVED that Alberta Beekeepers Commission pursue having the ‘Pierre the Bear’ advertising campaign tested/implemented in Alberta. The ad campaign would preferably take place during the summer months of July and August to coincide with the current honey production year.