

2009 Annual General Meeting Passed Resolutions

1. Request CHC to lobby HRSDC for renewable LMO's

WHEREAS in each year, the Alberta beekeeping industry depends on off-shore seasonal workers to fill a well-documented shortage of Canadian sources of skilled and unskilled labor, and

WHEREAS these foreign workers have shown they are an extremely valuable resource to sustain and grow our industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers request Canadian Honey Council to lobby HRSDC to offer a renewable Labor Market Opinion (LMO) for returning foreign workers.

2. Defeated.

3. Request PMRA to extend emergency registration of Apivar to 2011.

WHEREAS Apivar has been an effective tool for controlling Varroa mites in Alberta and;

WHEREAS the emergency registration of Apivar expires June 30th, 2010 and;

WHEREAS beekeepers in Alberta need several tools for controlling Varroa mites because of resistance to other treatments;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta beekeepers petition the PMRA and Arystra to support an application for an emergency registration of Apivar for one additional year, to 2010-2011.

4. Bee Health Committee and Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund

WHEREAS the Alberta Beekeepers Commission Bee Health Committee responded to industry needs to reported high winter loss, and;

WHEREAS the committee members including Alberta Agriculture Program, Bayer Crop Science, Pioneer, Monsanto, and Hy-Tech Hybrid succeeded to develop research plans to address honey bee health;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission acknowledge the achievement of the Committee's hard work and the support from all contributors including Alberta Crop Industry Development Fund.

5. Withdrawn.

6. Request CHC to streamline importation of queens from mainland USA

WHEREAS the Small Hive Beetle has been found in Canada, i.e. in the province of Quebec, and the federal government has not taken any action to eradicate the pest, and;

WHEREAS our main source of queens (Hawaii) may be in some jeopardy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission direct Canadian Honey Council to streamline the protocol, as recommended by Alberta Beekeepers Commission, for the importation of queens from mainland USA in order to increase the supply of queens to Alberta.

7. Request simplicity for foreign workers to use international licences

WHEREAS the beekeeping industry of Alberta relies on foreign workers to fill our labour needs, and

WHEREAS the improved efficiency of a beekeeping operation is dependent on the employees being able to drive, and;

WHEREAS many seasonal foreign workers arrive with an international drivers license, and;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta will only recognize an International operator's license for three months from the date of first arrival of the foreign worker, and;

WHEREAS these workers may be unable to obtain an Alberta operator's license;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers Commission request a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, the Solicitor General, Alberta Justice, the Minister of Transportation, and Service Alberta to find a solution which enables seasonal Agriculture foreign workers to drive with an international license for the duration of their employment.

8. Request CHC to conduct a national survey to open the US mainland border

WHEREAS the Alberta Beekeepers Importation Committee has determined it is necessary to conduct a survey of all Canadian Beekeepers regarding their opinion on the continued closure of the continental US border to packages;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alberta Beekeepers request Canadian Honey Council conduct a survey, with the assistance of the Alberta Beekeepers Importation Committee, of all Canadian beekeepers to evaluate the national opinion of border closure.

9. Labelling standards for honey

WHEREAS there are many products using the word “honey” as a selling tool when in fact there is no or very limited honey included; and,

WHEREAS there is artificial and imitation honey (i.e. sugar syrup blends) being sold as honey;

BE IT RESOLVED that in order to protect the integrity of Canadian honey, Alberta Beekeepers Commission request Canadian Honey Council lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to enforce labeling standards of honey.

Carried unanimously.