

April 3, 2012

Good evening Your Worship and Councillors,

I am very pleased and proud to be writing this letter to you today. Close to four years ago, I began a crusade to change the world and to transform the way people viewed their place in it. My message every year since began with the assertion that one person can change the world and like a landslide that begins with one stone; my message resounded across Canada and continues to be heard.

I write once more about our Honey Bees.

I would hope that by now, it is more widely understood that Honey Bees are responsible for about a third of the food we eat because they are responsible for about 70 percent of our food crop pollination. Honey Bees are an important keystone species and as such, they are the very cornerstone to the sustainability of our agriculture and stability of our environment. I am drawing attention to honey bees because they continue to disappear at unsustainable rates for unexplained reasons not only in Canada, but in every country and across every continent where they are raised. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has reported that there is no one single cause for such alarming worldwide disappearances. There are more theories than answers; foremost among these theories being irresponsible pesticide use, monoculture food crops, parasites, and pathogens; one of the latest theories suggests a newly discovered parasitic fly is the culprit. Bernard Vallat, the OIE's director-general, warned, that "Bees contribute to global food security, and their extinction would represent a terrible biological disaster."

According to the Canadian Honey Council, "The value of honey bees to pollination of agriculture is estimated at over \$2 billion annually." In 2010, The Canadian Association of Professional Apiarists (CAPA) suggested that Canada sustained a national honey bee overwintering mortality of 21 percent. In 2011, the Canadian Honey Council indicated a national loss averaging 29.3 percent. This amount of loss is greater than the 15 percent that is considered sustainable. Honey Bees have been disappearing at percentages considered unsustainable for more than a decade and I find this to be more than alarming.

Primary of all known solutions continues to be further education, awareness and proactive initiatives by all levels of government in Canada. One of these

proactive initiatives is the “Day of the Honey Bee” proclamations. Without understanding that there is a problem, the general public will continue to take for granted the severity of this global issue. It is for this reason that I began my campaign in 2009. While it proudly originated in Saskatoon SK. it did not end until it spread from coast to coast and found root in the United Kingdom and the Middle East. I had a vision that if municipal governments across our Nation were to be unified by collective proclamations in dedication to the Honey Bee under the principle of educational awareness, that more people, through media attention, would be made mindful of their alarming decline.

In seven provinces across Canada and with the support of over 70 municipal governments, May 29, 2010 was recognised as the first annual “Day of the Honey Bee”. It was officially recognised in declaration by two provincial governments and recorded in the Legislative Assembly Hansard of a third. The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada suggested, “That the Government (of Canada) follow in the footsteps of the Province of Saskatchewan... ..by proclaiming May 29, 2010 as the National Day of the Honey Bee and that this be reported to the House.”

Last year, there were 163 Municipal Governments all across Canada that issued Proclamations in support of `Day of the Honey Bee; including the Governments of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia. Because, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada unanimously supported the creation of this day last year; but unfortunately the federal election took precedence, it is hopeful that this day will gain federal endorsement this year. I have been assured by a Member of Parliament that this initiative will again be presented to the house.

As a result of this amazing support, more people learned about the plight of Honey Bees. All across Canada and abroad, dozens of events were held by beekeepers, apiarists, beekeeping associations, farmer’s markets, university groups and other individuals around May 29 to educate and inform the public. It is my hope that with my words, you may add to this continued success.

And now therefore, I do humbly request:

That your Worship and Council, on behalf of your citizenry, resolve to proclaim May 29 2012 as the third annual “Day of the Honey Bee;” and (if bylaw allows) that this proclamation be issued in perpetuity;

That in the event that proclamations are not issued as a matter of policy, please consider, for the purposes of educational awareness, making an exemption to that policy;

That in the event that there is a public ban on beekeeping within your jurisdiction, that in collaboration with your provincial apiarist and respecting your provincial regulations that this ban be lifted; effectively legalizing beekeeping for Hobbyists within your jurisdiction;

That Council resolve to endorse the establishment of a recognised day by the Government of Canada, by either writing to your local Member of Parliament and / or writing a letter of endorsement to Alex Atamanenko Member of Parliament for BC Southern Interior. [alex.atamanenko.a1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:alex.atamanenko.a1@parl.gc.ca) ;

And that in the event a proclamation and or response are issued, that originals be sent to the address and contact information below; for the purpose of keeping accurate tally and record; and that if copies are to be sent to apiarist or beekeeper groups that they be given copies.

I thank you for your time and your considerations,

Sincerely,



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