

Lauren Park
295 Jake Reid Road
Forest Hill, NS
B4P 2R1
(902) 292-5160
laurenheatherpark@gmail.com



March 12, 2017

Minister Colwell,

I am writing to you in response to your letter regarding the Pollination Expansion Program as well as to follow up on our meeting in January regarding honey bee imports.

There has been a significant amount of meaningful discussion regarding the Pollination Expansion Program (PEP) within the Nova Scotia Beekeepers' Association and we think this program should continue. The PEP has been, and continues to be an essential part of the successful expansion of the beekeeping industry.

While we in the NSBA strongly believe Nova Scotia has enough honey bee colonies to supply the 2017 blueberry pollination season, we understand that the price for blueberries will rebound and with it will come an increased demand for pollination. In understanding this, our goal for expanding the bee industry continues to be providing enough colonies in Nova Scotia to negate the need for imports from other areas for pollination purposes, as well as growing our thriving local honey industry. Some beekeepers have suggested expanding this program to encourage the growth of the honey industry as well as the pollination industry. We believe this idea should be further explored with your department.

Referring to our meeting in January, we understand the deadline to apply for a permit to import honey bees was March 1. To the best of my knowledge, no such permit has been issued. I assume this means no hives will be brought in from outside of Nova Scotia putting Nova Scotia's existing 28,200 hives at unnecessary risk of Small Hive Beetle infestation. Will you please confirm this assumption is correct and that no import permits will be issued for hives from Ontario in 2017?

Thank you for your continued support of our industry. I look forward to further discussion with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Lauren Park
President, Nova Scotia Beekeepers' Association