



**Agriculture  
Minister**

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February 16, 2016

Paul Kittilsen  
President  
Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association  
80 George Weatherby Rd  
Debert, B0M 1G0

Dear Mr. Kittilsen:

Thank you for your attendance in the roundtable discussion meeting held February 4th, 2016 regarding imports of honey bees from Ontario. The positioning for both the blueberry and bee industry are very important to me and this is why I weighed the information you provided very carefully. I have decided to keep the border open.

As suggested in the risk assessment by Andony, the risk is low for the introduction of SHB under our current protocol. In addition, this risk can be reduced further by implementing specific measures. I believe these measures along with an industry supported inspection team will provide the confidence for both industries to continue profitably and sustainably.

As a result the Import protocol, for hives from Ontario will continue with increased inspection demands. The import protocol will include:

- 100% top bar inspection by an industry government lead inspection team before import from Ontario. Training and inspection coordinated by the Department of Agriculture.
- Apiaries must be SHB free for 2 years and inspection time reduced to 10 days from time of inspection to import.
- Hives shall not be stored or transported with non-inspected hives after the inspection.
- Hives will be received in Cumberland County Only.

In addition, department staff will facilitate the development of an industry lead “Bee Industry Growth Plan”. This will be key to establishing a target for the bee industry to grow to, meet demand and become self-sufficient and sustainable.

I am also committing to the further delivery of the Pollination Expansion Program with increased investment and collaboration to meet the bee industry’s needs. For more information on any of the above please contact Steven Tattrie (902-890-1574).

I am looking forward to a prosperous future for both the bee and blueberry industries and their contribution to Nova Scotia’s economy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Colwell".

Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.  
Minister