

January 8, 2016

Mr. Jake Berg
President
Saskatchewan Beekeepers' Association
Box 249, 103 1st Ave N.
Big River, Saskatchewan S0J 0E0

Re: National Honey Bee Health Survey sampling in SK

Dear Mr. Berg,

The National Bee Diagnostic Centre has been conducting a four year project to establish a national baseline of pest, parasites and diseases in Canadian apiaries since the summer of 2014. In 2016 and 2017, we will be collecting honey bee samples from all 10 Canadian provinces, from British Columbia to Newfoundland & Labrador, to be evaluated for diseases (Nosema count and identification, AFB detection and antibiotic resistance, EFB detection and 7 virus quantifications), parasites (Varroa and Tracheal mites) and pests (SHB and hive moth); analyzing their genetics (Africanization), searching for exotic pathogens (*Apis cerana* and *Tropilaelaps*) and evaluating chemical residues (neonicotinoids, miticides) in pollen.

Last year the SBA board declined participation in the National survey on behalf of its members and presented some concerns on the project. We addressed those concerns in our letter on March 9th (attached here) and are open to explain in more detail our response and to discuss any additional questions your board may have regarding the National Honey Bee Health Survey project.

The input of the SBA is a valuable part of this National Study. We hope we can help clarify any information in regards to the protocols or goals of the project and establish a fruitful collaboration during the coming seasons. The data generated by this project will complement those obtained by individual beekeepers in their operations and the Provincial apiculturist.

We look forward the response of your association to initiate the necessary coordination and logistics for sampling in Saskatchewan.

Regards,



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National Bee Diagnostic Centre
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