



**Pollinator Health Research Chair Funding – Call For Donations**

On behalf of the SBDC Board of Directors, I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Elemir Simko has shared with us that he and his team at the WCVI have secured full funding for the Pollinator Health Research Chair position. Having reached the goal of \$750,000 in funding to support the position for the first 5 years, they will now begin a search and interview process with a target of having someone hired to the position by July of 2022. This is very exciting news for our industry. It will undoubtedly serve to strengthen and grow an already exceptional research community in Saskatchewan that is focused on bee health.

As most of you know the SBDC Board voted unanimously to offer \$250,000 in support of this position as part of the required \$750,000. This commitment will be over the first 5 years of the position. A critical consideration in making the decision to commit such a large amount of money to the project was, to be sure, that the SBDC had the funding available and that this expenditure would not negatively impact the day-to-day operations of the Commission or put us in a precarious financial situation. We remain confident in the fact that both of these conditions are met and are prepared to follow through with our commitment whenever the position is filled.

Having said that, it is always in the best interest of an industry organization to have a strong portfolio of working capital and, looking towards the future of the industry and the SBDC, it makes sense to preserve as much of our capital investments as possible. With honey prices at near historic highs, we now respectfully call upon our members to donate some portion of this year's crop to the Pollinator Health Research Fund. We have already received generous donations from a number of our members and will continue to look for additional support from outside agencies, industry partners and other provincial organizations. No donation is too small (or too large!) and you can choose to remain anonymous or have your name published on a list of contributors on the website.

Offsetting some or all of the \$250,000 contribution through donations and other contributions will allow the Board the freedom to consider financially supporting other important research projects in the province over the coming years. We have opened a dedicated account for these donations and to date we have \$20,000 of donations in that account through the generosity of some of our members and industry partners. We trust that the commitment to the industry and the generosity that has always been a part of the Saskatchewan Beekeeping community will help us to reach our goal. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or other Board members if you have any questions about this or other issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nathan Wendell  
President