

**RESOLUTION 6-24b**  
**IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CANADIAN APICULTURE THROUGH BEE PACKAGE IMPORTS AND THE CONTROL OF VARROA MITES**

- WHEREAS:** in 2022, honey producers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba experienced one of the worst winters kill events in years, with some producers losing up to 90% of their hives;
- WHEREAS:** the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) currently prohibits the importation of bee packages from the United States, yet allows bee package imports from intercontinental apiaries, including those in South America and New Zealand;
- WHEREAS:** Varroa Mites are already present and established across Canada;
- WHEREAS:** bee package imports from South America and New Zealand cost up to three times as much as bee packages sourced from the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** since the 1980s, the CFIA has only approved two miticides for the control of Varroa Mites, a situation that has led to the development of miticide-resistant mites;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**  
**THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that the CFIA and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) conduct further research on Varroa Miticide controls, and approve a new Varroa Mite miticide to address the lack of control options available to honey producers.

**SPONSORED BY:** Beaver County

**MOVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:** Federal

**DEPARTMENT:** Canadian Food Inspection Agency,  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since the 1980s, the Canadian border has been closed to the importation of Honeybee Packages. This restriction on bee imports was the result of the increasing Varroa Mite population in the United States at the time. Since then, only queen bees can be imported into Canada as they can be fully checked for mites, viruses, and other pests prior to their shipment.

Although the intention of this import restriction is to protect the Canadian Bee Industry from Varroa Mites, these mites are already present and established within Canada. Additionally, South America (a source that the CFIA does permit the importation of bees from) also has a well-established Varroa Mite

population. Therefore, imports from both locations should be held to the same standard.

Also, since bee packages from the United States are not permitted to be shipped into Canada, packages must be sourced from other localities in order to supplement our bee populations. Most often, these packages are shipped from New Zealand and South America. Due to this increased distance (compared to U.S shipments), these packages can be up to three times the cost of similar bee packages sourced from the United States.

Another compounding issue with Canada's Bee populations and Varroa mites is that there is a lack of miticide options for producer's who are dealing with Varroa Mites. In Canada, there have only been 2 new miticides that have been approved for use since the 1980s. Prior to the approval of these new miticides in 2019 and 2020, the Varroa Mite population had begun to show signs of miticide-resistance. Now that there are miticide-resistant mites spreading through Canada's beehives, the need for new and more diverse management tools is crucial to ensuring the longevity of Canada's Bee Industry.

The Bee Industry is not only crucial for honey production, but is important to many other aspects of agriculture as well. Most importantly, the bee industry helps with the pollination of our orchards, berry farms, vegetables, forages, and canola. Therefore, ensuring the stability and longevity of the Bee Industry not only aids our honey producers, but supports the health of Canada's diverse agricultural industry.

Sources:

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- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/registration-decision/2020/racemic-camphor-eucalyptus-oil-l-menthol-thymol-api-life-var.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2023/06/keeping-albertas-beekeepers-flying.html>
- [Alberta Beekeepers Commission Report](#)
- [Beary Berry Inc. Concerns](#)