

Log in

IN THE CITY: iPOLITICS' social column

Sunday
July 21, 2013
12:17 AM



About Us

Site Tour

Subscribe

Home

Politics

Policy

Parliament

Opinions

Soapbox

Cabinet Shuffle

Morning Brief

Evening Brief

Clippings

Cartoons

Notebook

Video

Canadian Shifts

Search

Ritz says beekeepers will have to wait for ban of controversial pesticide

By Kelsey Johnson | Jul 20, 2013 10:27 am |  0 Comments

Canadian beekeepers will have to wait on a final report on bee health before the federal government will consider banning the use of controversial pesticides, Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said Friday.

Speaking to reporters in Halifax Friday, Ritz said the decision to ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides must be based on sound science in the field report, currently being led by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), a division of Health Canada.

"Certainly, we're watching with interest what they do," Ritz said when asked if the topic had been discussed at the federal-provincial-territorial meeting in Halifax, which wrapped up Friday afternoon.

"We're hopeful the report will be out sooner rather than later and we're understanding they're doing everything they can to get it out as quickly as they can," he said, adding reports of this nature are known to take time.

TALKING HEADS

MUST READS

GIBSON

Harper in command and control

KHEIRIDDIN

Disaster mismanagement

MARTIN

Harperland vs. Nixonland

CONGRATULATIONS, MINISTER

An oversimplified transition guide

COMPLICITY

Court rejects guilt by association in refugee case

In May, PMRA officials told the House agriculture committee the final report would not be completed until 2018.

Those results should come sooner, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne told her colleagues when raising the issue at the Halifax meeting.

However, when asked if the Premier's efforts to move the release date up had been successful, the Premier's press secretary Gabrielle Gallant said no new deadline had been set as of yet.

But beekeepers, particularly those from Ontario and Quebec, say that's too long. With apiarists in those provinces reporting higher than average bee losses, ranging between 20 – 60 per cent, they say **they can't wait any longer.**

These losses simply aren't sustainable, Ontario Beekeepers Association President Dan Davidson has repeatedly told iPolitics. Something needs to be done.

That something, he said, is a ban on neonicotinoid pesticides –commonly used as a seed treatment on corn, canola, and soybeans – before next planting season.

That ban should be similar to the European Union's moratorium, which partially suspends the use of the pesticides for two years, he



Ottawa's social column.



Featured Opinion



Phil Gibson »

Harper takes command, and control



PARTY LINES »

Please, put me on Harper's enemies list



OP-EDS »

The sad fate of Mohammed Morsi



CARTOON GALLERY »

ALPHEUS Daily Watch 

COMMITTEE Watch

Provided by The Alpheus Group

IN THE HOUSE
 QP in Brief: Boston bombing leads off question period

IN THE HOUSE
 QP in Brief: Foreign worker, national budget and offshore tax havens

IN THE HOUSE
 QP in Brief: New taxes, new bureaucrats, new electoral reforms

LEGISLATION Monitor

Follow the bills

PRINT On Demand

Download here



Click here for more special editions

said while briefing fellow beekeepers on the issue at their annual summer meeting last week.

Canadian beekeepers want a moratorium that is, at a minimum, three years in length. Three years is the industry estimated half life of neonicotinoid pesticides, although that number is disputed, with some studies saying the pesticides could remain the environment for upwards of 17 years.

But on Friday, Minister Ritz said beekeepers should wait for the research to be completed before jumping to conclusions. "There are a number of factors that enter into the bee mortality here in Canada, as well as around the world," he said.

"The early winter, late spring it's a part of it. There's a number of new diseases and mites the bees are taking on as well as pesticide residue and so on."

But those who deal directly with the insects on a regular basis say they've dealt with mites for years. "We know what mites look like," one beekeeper said while discussing the issue at the Ontario Beekeepers Associations annual summer meeting last week. "We're out working with the bees on a regular basis. These deaths aren't being caused by mites."

Besides, said Davidson, there is already evidence from multiple sources, including the PMRA, that shows the pesticides are toxic to bees. All you have to do is look at the registration papers that date back to 2004, he explained at the meeting.

This lack of action by the PMRA is "completely unacceptable, especially with all the research that is out there. [The PMRA] knows exactly what's going on," he said.

More than 300 peer reviewed studies, including one recent Canadian study, on the issue have been conducted, said Davidson, of which 96 per cent show the pesticides are harmful to bees.

© 2013 iPolitics Inc.

Email This Post

Tweet 2
 Share

Like One person likes this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Login | Sign up

0 Comments

powered by: **viafoura**

Write your comment here

Record video Upload video Upload image Submit

Follow

Newest

Reviews at your fingertips

BOOK REVIEWS

IN OTHER NEWS

iPOLITICS



B.C. NDP panel to review stunning election loss



Alberta MLA charged in Minnesota prostitution bust



B.C. lawyers halt protest in show of goodwill



Stolen bell of Batoche to return to Sask. this weekend



U.K. blocks military exports to Egypt after civilian deaths



SCC grants war-crimes appeal to ex-diplomat



White House considering cancelling fall summit with Putin



Pope Francis offers indulgences to Twitter followers



Tech earnings dent world stock markets



Long-suffering Detroit finally turns to bankruptcy



Oil above \$108 on positive U.S. data

NOTEBOOK

- Why Canada will never have a Detroit (even in Windsor)
- Former Much Music VJ seeking NDP nomination in Toronto-Centre
- Energy companies dominate June lobbying
- Who's where on the new federal cabinet *committees*
- Who's where in the new federal cabinet
- Loonie overvalued by 15.4 per cent: Big Mac Index

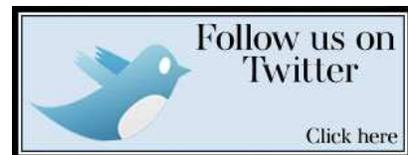
FACEBOOK

Sign Up Create an account or **Log In** to see what your friends are doing.

-  **Valcourt says 2008 residential schools apology covered nutritional experiments**
53 people recommend this.
-  **Farley Mowat vs. the zombies: game on**
207 people recommend this.
-  **The Canada Job Grant: bad policy, clumsy politics**
2 people recommend this.
-  **Easter to Fast: Reveal who's on your 'enemies' list**
One person recommends this.

Facebook social plugin

Like 1.6k Tweet

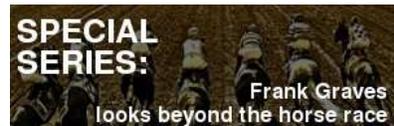


IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



An iPolitics special feature

78 Ways To Fix
The Way We Do Politics



iPolitics is independent, non-partisan and committed to providing timely, relevant, insightful content to those whose professional or personal interests require that they stay on top of political developments in Ottawa and the provinces. Working in a spirit of neutral inquiry, our daily news service will include coverage of the legislative, regulatory, political and policy developments that matter most to businesspeople, professionals, politicians, public servants, political activists and the more politically-aware.