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A new campaign aims to get children involved in the effort to ban insecticides linked with a widespread collapse of bee colonies.

Photo Credit: Sierra Club Canada Foundation

Campaign alerts children to decline of bees

By [Lynn Desjardins](#) | english@rcinet.ca

Sunday 10 August, 2014 , 1 [Comment](#) ↓



Backpacks and lunchboxes are being sold to raise awareness among children of a severe decline in bees that conservationists say is caused by pesticides.

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While Europe has banned three neonicotinoid insecticides, Canada is re-evaluating them, but, at the same time, still registering new products containing them, says John Bennett of the [Sierra Club Canada Foundation](#). "In Canada and the United States the industry has successfully pushed the government into a period of long-term talking which means nothing is happening."



Sierra poster suggests bees would need gas masks and hazmat suits to survive neonicotinoids. © Richard MacArthur

Neonics 'more toxic than DDT'

Silent Spring comes to Bennett's mind. That was a science book written in 1962 about the devastation caused by pesticides that led to the banning of DDT. Bennett says neonicotinoids are worse.

"This pesticide is the most widely-used pesticide in the world.

More of it's used than any other pesticide ever in history and it's 5-10,000 times more toxic than DDT," says Bennett. He adds that [recent studies](#) indicate this substance is not only harming bees, but is also affecting other pollinating insects, birds and amphibians.

Children offered tools to campaign

Everyone should be concerned, says Bennett. So Sierra Club Canada Foundation has launched a [campaign](#) including an initiative for children who will be returning to school in a few weeks after summer vacation. Many parents are purchasing books and equipment now and the foundation is suggesting they buy these



Items for school include information and material to help children get involved in 'Save the Bees' campaign. © Sierra Club Canada Foundation

lunchbags and backpacks with colourful bee logos. They contain a fact sheet, a flyer and a petition form so students can take action themselves to save the bees.

"Even though the science is clear," says Bennett, "the power of the big companies that produce the pesticides is so great that the only way we can defeat them is

through very large numbers of Canadians and people around the world rising up and saying 'No. We don't want these poisons put into our plants.'



Posted in Animals, Environment

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« The LINK Online (Sat. Aug 09, 2014) Canadian Rangers – The Watchers »

One comment on “Campaign alerts children to decline of bees”



WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G says:

Your comment is awaiting moderation.

11 August 2014 at 23 h 55 min

NORAHG RESPONDS TO SIERRA — EXPLOITING CHILDREN IS WRONG !

Sierra-screeching-monkeys are despicable when they outrageously exploit children as weapons of coercion and ultimate terror in order to promote anti-pesticide prohibition. They do so in order to intimidate the public into believing the anti-pesticide prohibition is somehow necessary in order to somehow stop so-called bee colony collapse disorder. Allegations about the imaginary danger to bees are totally false, and are untrue mis-representations designed to alarm and enrage the public for money and profit given to anti-pesticide organizations like Sierra Club. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-7tH> Anti-pesticide prohibition that is imposed under the pretext of protecting bee health is wrong ! Exploiting children in order to promote prohibition is also wrong ! In fact, pest control products are scientifically-safe, cause no harm, and are no threat to bees. Sierra-screeching-monkeys are falsely alleging to children that there is a bee crisis somehow caused by neonicotinoid insecticides. In fact, these products are NOT contributing to losses alleged by a small minority of bee-keepers. There is NO bee crisis in Canada. Only a very limited number of bee-keepers report losses due to so-called bee colony collapse disorder, less than 1.0 per cent. In 2012, a mere 42 bee-keepers alleged losses. In 2013, only 74 bee-keepers alleged losses. There are 7,000 bee-keepers keeping 600,000 colonies of honeybees across Canada. Essentially, a mere 0.5 to 1.0 per cent of all bee-keepers are reporting losses. These represent the incompetent bee-keepers who strive to profit from unjustifiable government compensation. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-77N> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7VI> Over 99 per cent of all bee-keepers are reporting NO losses. Less than 1.0 per cent of bee-keepers have no idea what they are doing, leading some observers to conclude that these bee-keepers may not be competent to raise bees, and certainly know almost nothing about pest control products. Bee-keepers know full well that varroa mites are the primary problem associated with losses, and not neonicotinoid insecticides. Science and statistics do not support demands to

prohibit against neonicotinoid insecticides in agriculture. If we had less conventional neonicotinoid use in the environment, we would still have bee colony collapse disorder, because many bee-keepers are not competent to manage their hives. Prohibition will not save bees. <http://tinyurl.com/pxqzh6m> For more information regarding BEES, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2BA> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8gJ> <http://tinyurl.com/morx7I5> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8de> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7Pm> <http://tinyurl.com/qb7ssh> <http://tinyurl.com/p3gg6rl> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7zT> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7ul> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7dR> NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to harm the Green space industry. WILLIAM H. GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G. Get the latest details at The Pesticide Truths Web-Site <http://pesticidetruths.com/> and go to The Complete Library Of Web-Pages, Reports, & References <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr>

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Peter Ashcroft says:

11 August 2014 at 1 h 46 min

The problem now is that you need long term research into pros and cons before introducing pesticides. The short term research is now found to be inadequate as we find out more and more about life's complex cycles.

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