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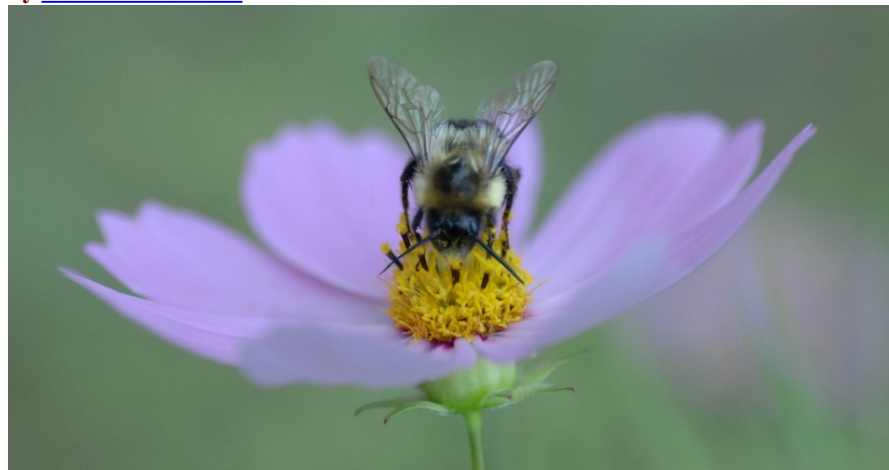
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## Canadian Beekeepers Launch Class Action Suit Against Pesticide Makers

**“It was time to get serious and go after the real villains — the companies profiting from the ecological mayhem.”**

by [Andrea Germanos](#) -



*A bee enjoys a Cosmos flower in Toronto. (Photo: postbear eater of worlds)*

Beekeepers in the Canadian province of Ontario have launched a class action lawsuit against makers of a class of pesticides linked to the decline of bees.

The [claim](#) (pdf) filed Tuesday in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice seeks \$450 million in damages going back to 2006 for the “chronic effects of the use of the Neonicotinoids [...] felt by Canada’s Beekeepers annually.”

The effort targets agribusiness giants Bayer and Syngenta, whom the claims states were “negligent in permitting or failing to prevent the damages caused by the Neonicotinoids to the Beekeepers.”

The claim, led by two Ontario-based [honey producers](#) and filed by Siskinds LLP, charges that agribusiness giants Bayer and Syngenta’s “continued production, marketing and sale of the Neonicotinoids” poses “ongoing” damage. “Beekeepers have suffered, and will continue to suffer, devastating economic hardships as a result of the continued use of Neonicotinoids,” it states.

The damages they say are caused by these pesticides, also known as neonics, include: bee deaths; impaired reproduction; immune suppression; behavioral abnormalities resulting in hive loss ; reduced honey production; impacts on the quality of honey; contamination of hive equipment; loss of Queen Bees; breeding stock; and difficulties fulfilling honey product or pollination contracts.

John Bennett, National Program Director of the Sierra Club Canada Foundation, [called](#) the launch of the lawsuit “historic news,” and explained the lead-up to the suit:

So far we have looked to government and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to enforce the law, but once I sat down with the head of the Agency and key staff in June it became clear to me that the PMRA is infused with inertia and has no sense of urgency.

So I introduced the beekeepers to Siskinds LLP, an Ontario law firm that specializes in class action law suits. It was time to get serious and go after the real villains — the companies profiting from the ecological mayhem.

The Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA), which is not directly involved in the suit, welcomed to effort. "This Action puts the blame where it belongs — on the pesticide manufacturers," the organization's Vice President, Tibor Szabo, said in statement.

The Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists (CAPA) reported that Ontario's average level of wintering loss of honey bee colonies over the past winter was 58 percent, far higher than the 15 percent winter loss beekeepers in the country consider an acceptable level.

CAPA's latest annual colony loss [report](#) (pdf) adds: "There are concerns amongst some beekeepers, particularly in Ontario and Quebec, that exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides during the spring and summer may lead to increased stress to colonies contributing to winter loss."

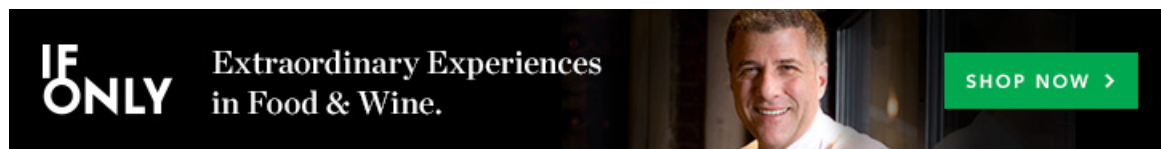
The U.S.-based environmental group Beyond Pesticides stated Thursday that the class action suit "demonstrates the desperation of beekeepers everywhere." The group [writes](#):

While many causes of these honey bee declines have been cited, including a combination of pesticides, parasitic mites, viruses, cold winters, decreased foraging habitat, and the stresses placed on colonies when they are moved among farms, [scientists and bee experts agree](#) that neonicotinoids significantly contribute to bee deaths both directly through contact exposure and indirectly through weakening the bees and making them more vulnerable to pathogens and other stressors.

Neonicotinoids, like [imidacloprid](#), [clothianidin](#), and [thiamethoxam](#), have already been given [two-year moratorium](#) in the European Union (EU). Despite calls for similar action from beekeepers and environmentalists, Canadian officials, and their counterparts in the U.S., have refused to follow suit. And although some success in the form of local ordinances has occurred in both the [United States](#) and [Ontario](#), Canada as well as [policy shifts within some U.S. federal agencies](#), the Canadian beekeeper lawsuit demonstrates the desperation of beekeepers everywhere seeking relief on a broader scale.

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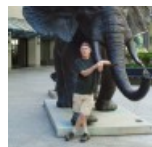
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**Posted By: Keith**

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9 • Norah G Fon ▾

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**Norah G Fon** • 8 hours ago

**NORAHG RESPONDS TO ONTARIO BEE-KEEPER CLASS-ACTION — THE LAWSUIT WILL FAIL BECAUSE BEE-KEEPERS ARE NEGLIGENT AND INCOMPETENT !**

An ill-fated class-action-lawsuit has been filed by lawyers representing anti-pesticide bee-keepers to recover alleged damages suffered due to neonicotinoid insecticides used by the agriculture industry since 2006. Observers predict that the bee-keepers will **LOSE THE LAWSUIT**, and will **NOT RECOVER LOSSES AND DAMAGES**. The lawsuit will fail to prove that only neonicotinoid insecticides were to blame for their bee losses. According to leading expert Dr Ernesto Guzman, neonicotinoid poisoning is, of course, a factor, but it is **NOT** the only factor. The bee-keeper lawsuit will be unable to avoid the fact that there is no bee crisis caused by neonicotinoid insecticides, since only a very limited number of bee-keepers have reported losses. The lawsuit will fail to prove that bee-keepers were **NOT** negligent and incompetent in their management practices. It will fail to prove that they performed due diligence to control varroa mites, nosema fungus, tobacco ringspot virus, and other pests that damage bees. The real causes of bee mortality are these pests that bee-keepers appear to be unable or unwilling to properly control. They would rather lay false blame against neonicotinoid insecticides. The bee-keeper lawsuit will fail to prove that there is even a bee crisis with neonicotinoid insecticides. There is no such bee crisis according to leading experts like Dr Ernesto Guzman, who has stated that there is evidence that varroa mites are the primary problem associated to bee losses in southern Ontario, and neonicotinoid insecticides have been associated to only some isolated cases of colony losses. The bee-keeper lawsuit will even fail to prove that there is any bee crisis at all. There is no bee crisis according to Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, who has stated that many bee-keeping operations have **NOT** been affected and have been able to maintain strong and healthy bee colonies, as evidenced by hive strength and honey production. There is no bee crisis according to Statistics Canada, which has stated that the number of honey bee colonies are up, and **NOT** down, in the province of Ontario and across Canada. The bee-keeper lawsuit will be unable to explain that the Canadian Honeybee Industry is actually thriving, with the total number of bee-keepers in Canada actually rising dramatically since 2008. The lawsuit will be unable to explain that Canada's honey yield is twice the world's average. It will be unable to explain why Canadian Honey Council actively opposes prohibition against neonicotinoid insecticides. The bee-keeper lawsuit will be unable to contradict the fact that there is no bee crisis caused by neonicotinoid insecticides. The lawsuit will fail to prove that bee-keepers did **NOT** tamper with the samples provided to Health Canada which measured some detectable insecticide ingredient. It will also fail to prove that the mere ability to measure or detect the presence of insecticide ingredient in a bee colony is **NOT** an indication that it harmed bees. The lawsuit will also fail to explain why bee-keepers are violating federal law by using illegal and unregistered products to control bee pests. Observers have consistently pointed out to how much profit the anti-pesticide bee-keepers will make if they succeed in a class-action lawsuit. They appear motivated by mere profit and greed. There is no bee crisis with neonicotinoid insecticides, and **THE LAWSUIT WILL FAIL !** However, there **IS** a bee crisis with negligent and incompetent bee-keepers. Even if the class-action lawsuit is somehow successful, we would still have bee losses because many bee-keepers are **NOT** competent to manage their hives. Let the anti-pesticide bee-keepers face the spotlight of scrutiny and the terror of the courts. For more information about the ONTARIO BEE-KEEPER CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT, go to The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ... <http://tinyurl.com/ph4a6xc> NORAHG is the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that seek to destroy the Green space industry. WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> <http://pesticidetruths.com/toc...> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2rr> <https://www.facebook.com/norah...>

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**Plum Dumpling** → Norah G Fon • 2 hours ago

BS.

Thanks for posting this Keith. All Summer I have seen two bees in spite of planting tons of bee friendly flowers and plants.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ▾

**Norah G Fon** → Plum Dumpling • a few seconds ago

Your observation is trying to mis-guide the reader based upon subversive and non-expert speculation which cannot even be verified.



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