



DECEMBER 8, 2014

Dear ---,

This is my first newsletter as president and there is a lot to report on. But mostly I want to remind you to come to one of the consultations about the proposed plan to reduce neonicotinoids in the province and respond to the discussion paper that OMAFRA has provided. They've removed the deadline for registering but otherwise you can find the information in our last bulletin [here](#). Take the quick survey below, too; we want to know what you think. I also want to remind you that OBA membership is by calendar year, so renew now, or if you aren't a member, join now. The stronger our member base, the stronger the organization. I'm looking forward to representing all of you during my term as president. You can reach me any time [atpresident@ontariobee.com](mailto:atpresident@ontariobee.com).

In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season.

All the best,

Tibor



# Ontario Government extends Beekeepers Financial Assistance Program to 2015

The ministry has let us know that they have received approval to extend the Beekeepers Financial Assistance program to cover losses in 2015. Although the OBA has been advocating for an increase in the level of compensation, the program is being extended with the same disaster-based parameters as 2014.

OMAFRA will be posting information on the program's extension on its [website](#) this week. As with the 2014 program, you will need to report losses to [www.agricorp.com/bees](http://www.agricorp.com/bees).

Agricorp will be mailing application packages to all eligible beekeepers starting next week. The deadline for application is January 30, 2015.

## Update on 2014 Beekeepers Program

All overwinter payments have been mailed for approximately 19,000 hives.

- Total applications: 325
- Overwinter applications paid: 255
- Overwinter payments completed: \$2 M.

First payments for in-season losses have been mailed.

- Total proof of loss forms: 63
- Forms processed: 20
- In season payments to date: \$327 K