

Hello Skylar,

The Ontario Government launched a Pollinator Health Action Plan in December of 2016. In support of the plan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has committed to reviewing the Bees Act and will release a discussion paper for consultation with the beekeeping industry and the public to modernize the province's legislative framework on beekeeping. Among other components, the modernization proposals could include provisions related to the following items:

- beekeeper training
- updated requirements for the location of hives
- recordkeeping and traceability (for example, clear requirements for recording colony movements)
- modernized tools for pest and disease
- management, including improved biosecurity measures

The review of the Bees Act is underway and information on public consultation will be available in 2017. Be sure to check in to <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/pollinator/meeting-reg.htm> for more information on pollinator health in Ontario.

Paul Kozak
Provincial Apiarist
Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
Animal Health and Welfare Branch
1 Stone Road West, 5th Floor NW
Guelph ON N1G 4Y2
Tel: [519 826-3595](tel:5198263595) or [1-888-466-2372](tel:18884662372) Ext. [519-826-3595](tel:5198263595)
Fax: [519 826-4375](tel:5198264375)
Email: Paul.Kozak@ontario.ca