



# NSERC-CANPOLIN

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## CANADIAN POLLINATION INITIATIVE

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Welcome to the first official edition of the CANPOLIN newsletter! Since receiving word last fall that the CANPOLIN proposal was successful, we have been making great strides towards getting the Network up and running. This newsletter provides a brief update on some of the activities currently taking place in the network. More detailed newsletters will follow on a regular basis as additional information becomes available.

### Report on the SAC Meeting and Workshop

A workshop and Science Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was held January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the University of Guelph. The meetings were held to address some of the concerns identified in the CANPOLIN proposal by NSERC's reviewers and to begin planning and budgeting for Year 1 and Year 2 activities. The workshop was attended by a number of CANPOLIN researchers outside the SAC who brought additional insights and expertise into the planning process. Working Group leaders are now busy planning more detailed budgets and plans for Year 1. These budgets will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

Key outcomes of the workshop and SAC meeting include the following:

- 1) As per the recommendations of the NSERC review, Working Group 6 (Floral Biology) will be incorporated into other working groups.
- 2) NSERC is recommending that CANPOLIN raise \$200k in cash per year to help meet the needs of the Network. CANPOLIN is asking that all researchers be aware of possible sources of funds, particularly those involved in industry-relevant projects that can be used to leverage cash support.
- 3) The Network will bring in an additional post-doc in Working Group 8 (Economics) to help steer integration between the economics and biological research. This was a need identified by both NSERC reviewers and the SAC.
- 4) A post-doc to be shared by WG5 (Ecosystems) and WG7 (Prediction) will also be brought in to assist with integration and geomatics.
- 5) A **Databasing Committee** has been set up to identify an appropriate database for CANPOLIN's needs and to standardize the type of insect and plant data that needs to be collected.
- 6) Canola has been identified as a major crop of interest for sampling and ecosystem work.
- 7) Linkages to policy development early in the life of the Network will be important. The SAC will work to develop a plan to establish the appropriate linkages.

### Inter-University Network Agreement

The Office of Research at the University of Guelph sent out the Inter-University Network Agreement on February 19. All universities will need to sign the agreement before money can be transferred to any CANPOLIN researchers. **We will need to provide a detailed budget to the universities before the agreement can be fully executed so time is of the essence in developing each working group's budget for Year 1.**

### Coming Soon....

The CANPOLIN website will be up and running by the end of the month. We will notify the Network by email as soon as it is functional!

### Network Secretariat

Sarah Bates is the new Network Manager for CANPOLIN. Andrea McGraw-Alcock has also joined CANPOLIN as the Network Assistant.



Meeting attendees also had the chance to meet and mingle with several CANPOLIN Board of Directors members during dinner at the President's House, which was hosted by the U of G Office of Research.

### Current SAC Membership – February 2009

- 1) Peter Kevan (Chair and PI)
- 2) Laurence Packer (Theme I Leader)
- 3) Jeremy McNeil (Theme II Leader)
- 4) Elizabeth Elle (Theme III Leader)
- 5) Alfons Weersink (Theme IV Leader)
- 6) Simon Potts (International Advisor)
- 7) Steve Buchmann (International Advisor)
- 8) Scott Swinton (Michigan State University - Academic Advisor)
- 9) David Drexler (Bayer CropScience - Industry Advisor)
- 10) Ken Richards (AAFC - Government Advisor)
- 11) Alison Janidlo (NSERC, non-voting)
- 12) Sarah Bates (CANPOLIN, non-voting)

### Board of Directors Update

The CANPOLIN Board of Directors held its first face-to-face meeting immediately following the SAC meeting at the University of Guelph on January 21, 2009. The Board approved some broad changes to the budget following NSERC's recommendations and will approve more detailed budgets for each Working Group for Year 1 when they become available. Overall, the meeting was highly productive and the Board is moving forward on many fronts to support CANPOLIN and its activities.

**Membership Update:** **Karen Kraft Sloan** of EcoNexus and York University replaced Charles Caccia as Chair of the Board after Charles passed away unexpectedly last summer.

Other members of the Board now include **Steven Liss**, Associate VP Research at Guelph, **Laurie Davies-Adams**, Executive Director of the Pollinator Partnership, **Heather Clay**, CEO of the Canadian Honey Council, **Anne Breau**, Chief of the Canadian Centre for Biodiversity at the Canadian Museum of Nature, **John Borden**, Chief Scientific Officer of Contech Inc., **Stephen Morgan-Jones**, Director General of Sustainable Production Systems, AAFC, **Bernard Vaissiere**, Chargé de Recherche, équipe Pollinisation & Ecologie des Abeilles, INRA Avignon, France, **Laurence Packer**, York University, and **Peter Kevan**. **Alison Janidlo** (NSERC) and **Sarah Bates** (CANPOLIN) are non-voting members

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