

**Canadian Honey Council Annual General Meeting
Orlando, Florida – Tuesday, January 12, 2010**

ALBERTA High Priority

Resolution AB 1: Labeling standards for honey

Moved. Jerry/Bruce. Amended. Corey/Ted. Carried as amended.

WHEREAS there are many products using the word “honey” as a selling tool when in fact there is no or very limited honey included; and,

WHEREAS there is artificial and imitation honey (i.e. sugar syrup blends) being sold as honey;

BE IT RESOLVED that in order to protect the integrity of Canadian honey Canadian Honey Council lobby the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to enforce labelling standards of honey.

Resolution AB 2: Request CHC to streamline importation of queens from mainland USA

Moved as amended. Luc/Jerry. Tabled until after discussion of MBA resolutions and subsequently tabled until after the proposed stakeholder meeting, where the importation of queens is to be on the agenda.

WHEREAS the Small Hive Beetle has been found in Canada, i.e. in the province of Quebec, and the federal government has not taken any action to eradicate this pest, and;

WHEREAS our main source of queens (Hawaii) may be in some jeopardy;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Honey Council recommend to CFIA to streamline the protocol for the importation of queens from mainland USA in order to increase the supply of queens to Canada, specifically to:

First: Allow queens to be imported in Battery Boxes (just as they are in the shipments from Hawaii). Putting queens in separate cages and adding bees adds considerable time and extra cost to the source beekeepers whether in California or Hawaii. (As an added precaution, a label could be put on the outside of the box advising beekeepers to destroy the attendant bees and replace them with their own.)

Second: Since beekeepers in Canada, in Hawaii, and in mainland U.S.A. all have well-established Varroa mites, Varroa testing should no longer be required from the source beekeepers, in either Hawaii or California. (Again, as an added precaution, a label could be put on the outside of the box advising beekeepers to destroy the attendant bees and replace them with their own.)

Third: Since Small Hive Beetle (SHB) is not a threat to Canadian beekeepers, the need for testing for SHB should no longer be required. However, control measures could be taken to minimize the movement of SHB via the battery boxes, such as putting control strips in the battery box (as recommended by Canadian Association of Provincial Apiculturist) to eliminate any SHBs that might be missed by a source beekeeper. Also proper storage of the battery box material will prevent exposure to SHB.

Resolution AB 3: Request PMRA to extend emergency registration of Apivar to 2011

Moved as amended. Jerry/Bruce. Carried.

WHEREAS Apivar has been an effective tool for controlling Varroa mites in Alberta, and;

WHEREAS the emergency registration of Apivar expires June 30th, 2010, and;

WHEREAS beekeepers in Alberta need several tools for controlling Varroa mites because of resistance to other treatments;

BE IT RESOLVED that the CHC petition the PMRA and Arystra to support an application for an emergency registration of Apivar for one additional year, to 2010-2011.

ALBERTA Moderately High Priority

Resolution AB 4: Request CHC to conduct a national survey to open the US mainland border

Moved as amended. Luc/Bruce. Tabled until after MBA resolutions and subsequently tabled until after the stakeholder meeting, for which the survey will provide information.

WHEREAS the Alberta Beekeepers Importation Committee has determined it is necessary to conduct a survey of all Canadian Beekeepers regarding their opinion on the continued closure of the continental US border to packages;

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Honey Council to conduct a survey, with the assistance of the Alberta Beekeepers Importation Committee, of all Canadian beekeepers to evaluate the national opinion of Canada/USA border closure.

Resolution AB 5: Request CHC to lobby HRSDC for renewable LMO's

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Carried.

WHEREAS in each year, the Alberta beekeeping industry depends on off-shore seasonal workers to fill a well-documented shortage of Canadian sources of skilled and unskilled labour, and

WHEREAS these foreign workers have shown they are an extremely valuable resource to sustain and grow our industry,

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Honey Council lobby HRSDC to offer a renewable Labour Market Opinion (LMO) for returning foreign workers.

MANITOBA

Resolution MB 1: MBA to work with CHC on Hive Health Priorities

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Carried.

WHEREAS MBA is a paid up member of the national Canadian Honey Council organization, and;

WHEREAS the MBA Strategic Plan distributed at the 2008 Annual Meeting described several hive health issues important to Manitoba producers, and;

WHEREAS The CHC Hive Health Committee has requested MBA and others to provide input to their deliberations

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC and the Hive Health Committee maintain a priority on Healthy CHC AGM Minutes for January 12, Orlando

Sources of Bee stocks, More Varroa Treatment Options, and Retention of Formic Acid Treatment Options.

Resolution MB 2: Request CHC to organize a Stakeholder Meeting on the importation embargo

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Carried.

WHEREAS the MBA was originally supportive of the importation embargo initiated in 1988 to prohibit the importation of packaged bees and queens from the continental USA, and;

WHEREAS in response to growing industry concerns over the supply of available queens in the Spring, the MBA surveyed its membership in 2002 to determine if support for the importation embargo of queen had changed, and;

WHEREAS the survey results revealed that the majority of the responding beekeepers supported changes to allow greater access but wanted protocols in place to minimize the risk of importing important diseases, pests, and Africanized bees, and;

WHEREAS at the request from industry, the CHC organized a Stakeholder Meeting to develop importation protocols to support importation of queen honey bees from the continental USA, and;

WHEREAS in 2004, the MBA passed a resolution to support the CFIA proposed amendment to allow the importation of queens from the continental USA under the conditions of the import permit developed with industry and other stakeholders, and;

WHEREAS there are growing industry concerns over high winter losses and the availability of replacement bees in the Spring, and;

WHEREAS in 2009, the MBA conducted a survey of its membership to determine their interest in, and views on, alternative sources for packaged bees, and;

WHEREAS the survey results revealed that the majority of responding beekeepers supported greater access to packaged bees than what is currently available.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Honey Council seek funding to organize a Stakeholder Meeting to identify risks and develop mitigating strategies and new protocols, to recommend to CFIA, to allow greater access to bees from the continental USA and other suitable countries under the conditions of an import permit developed by industry and other stakeholders, and that such a meeting be funded with funds obtained from elsewhere than the current CHC operating budget.

Resolution MB 3: Request CHC to seek federal opinion on challenging the “no comb” law

Moved as amended. Bruce/Luc. Tabled to be reconsidered after stakeholders meeting, where the “no comb” law could be on the agenda.

WHEREAS under NAFTA rules there may be provisions where American beekeepers may be successful in challenging the standing “no comb” law, if the border is opened to package bees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CHC seek an opinion from Federal Government as to the probability of an American beekeeper successfully challenging the standing “no comb” law.

Resolution BC 1 Request “open” AGMs

Be it resolved that the CHC AGM shall be open to all beekeepers who are members of CHC's member organizations so that they can observe the meetings proceedings.

Moved. Ted/Corey. Defeated with 1 abstention.

SASKATCHEWAN First Priority: Hive Health – Strengthened Importation Protocol

1. Request CHC to ask CAPA and CFIA to review current import protocols for queens

Moved. Corey/Ted. Defeated.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas the negative impact and spread of viruses and their relation to CCD is still unknown, and

Whereas Africanized honeybees and Africanized honey bee hybrids likely continue to expand their territory in the United States, and

Whereas Small Hive Beetles continues to expand its presence in the US

Therefore be it resolved that CHC requests that CAPA and CFIA review the current import protocols for queens from continental US to ensure they remain adequate to protect the Canadian honeybee industry

Resolution SK 2: Request CHC to ask CFIA to investigate non-compliance with varroa protocols and implement compliance measures

Moved. Corey/Ted. Defeated.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas current CFIA import protocols for package honey bees mandate that Varroa mite levels are less than 1%, and

Whereas much higher levels of Varroa mites have been observed in imported packages

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC approach CFIA to investigate why exporting countries are not meeting protocols and implement measures to ensure protocols are being met

Resolution SK 3 Request CHC to ask CFIA to expand import protocols

Moved as amended. Corey/Ted. Defeated.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas Varroa mites have shown great ability to adapt to control treatments, and

Whereas approved treatment products vary from one jurisdiction (country) to another and there are reports of products not registered for use in those jurisdictions being used by countries that import bees into Canada, and

Whereas it is conceivable that we are importing Varroa mites that are already developing resistance to the treatment products used in the originating jurisdiction

Therefore be it resolved that CHC ask CFIA to expand import protocols to include a four-year treatment history of the exporting operation.

Resolution SK 4: Request CHC to continue supporting the CFIA ban on packaged honey bees from continental USA

Moved. Corey/Ted. Defeated.

Whereas the current import protocols do not allow importation of package honey bees from the continental US, and

Whereas no evidence of improvement of the health of US honey bee stock has been seen, and

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority,

Therefore be it resolved that CHC continue to support the CFIA import ban of package honey bees from the continental US

SASKATCHEWAN Second Priority: Hive Health – Treatment Products

Resolution SK 5: Request CHC to support full registration of Apivar

Moved. Corey/Jerry. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas resistance has been found to both Checkmite+™ and Apistan®

Whereas Varroa mites continue to be a threat to the beekeeping industry

Whereas formic acid and oxalic acid have variable efficacy and still need to be adapted to prairie conditions

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC support the full registration of Apivar® and, failing the full registration of Apivar®, CHC pursue emergency use registration of Apivar® for another year

Resolution SK 6: Request CHC to work with PMRA on mite control options

Moved as amended. Corey/Bruce. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas resistance has been found to both Checkmite+™ and Apistan®

Whereas Varroa mites continue to be a threat to the beekeeping industry

Whereas formic acid and oxalic acid have variable efficacy and still need to be adapted to prairie conditions

Whereas there are limited additional approved products to control Varroa mites

Therefore be it resolved that CHC continue to work with PMRA and the industry to continue to increase the number of options for mite control (*e.g.* organic acids and essential oils)

Resolution SK 7: Request CHC to lobby PMRA to maintain status-quo with CAPCO (C94-05)

Moved. Corey/Dan. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas PMRA intends to remove CAPCO (C94-05) eliminating the ability to use liquid formic acid for mite control in bee hives, and

Whereas there is not yet enough scientifically validated research to meet full registration requirements of liquid formic acid

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC lobby PMRA and the Canadian government to maintain the status-quo with CAPCO (C94-05)

Resolution SK 8: Request CHC to encourage and support companies that could develop and register better organic treatment for mites

Moved. Corey/Bruce. Carried.

Whereas hive health has been identified by industry and CHC as the number one priority, and

Whereas resistance has been found to registered products Checkmite+™ and Apistan®, and

Whereas Varroa mites continue to be a threat to the beekeeping industry

Be it resolved that the CHC encourage and support companies that develop and/or have the potential to develop and register new and/or better organic treatments for the control of mites.

SASKATCHEWAN Third Priority: CHC/Industry Support

Resolution SK 9: Request CHC to initiate and maintain project funding applications

Moved as amended. Corey/Bruce. Carried.

Whereas there are multiple federal program funds available for organizations such as CHC and,

Whereas project funding has benefited the beekeeping industry and the national organization in the past

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC regularly apply for funding for relevant projects that fall within CHC's four strategic priorities, while funding is available

Resolution SK 10: Request CHC to ask federal government for more research resources

Moved. Corey/Danny. Carried.

Whereas honeybees are under threat in Canada and world wide, and

Whereas there has been a decrease in the research facilities and staff and there is a lack of research staff for performing necessary work to assist the beekeeping industry stay ahead of the current concerns, and

Whereas the government of Canada made a previous commitment to developing a research facility and increasing research personnel

Therefore be it resolved that CHC request that the federal government increase support to the beekeeping industry by funding additional research personnel and facilities

Resolution SK 11: Request CHC to seek opportunities for bee keeper training and development

Moved. Corey/Luc. Carried.

Whereas there is no industry-specific training or professional development program for beekeepers and staff in Canada

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC seek opportunities to have such programs developed and implemented

SASKATCHEWAN Fourth Priority: Food Safety/Quality

Resolution SK 12: Request CHC to implement strategy for full registration of facilities for honey sales

Moved as amended. Corey/Tom. Carried.

Whereas food safety is becoming an increasing concern in Canada, and

Whereas Canadian quality standards for honey need to be maintained and enhanced, and

Whereas national and international standards are becoming increasingly important

Therefore be it resolved that CHC develop a strategy and time line for full registration of all beekeeping facilities preparing honey destined for export and retail sales.

SASKATCHEWAN Fifth Priority: Export Protocol

Resolution SK 13: Request CHC to lobby for greater permit for shipment period

Moved as amended. Corey/Ted. Carried.

Whereas permits for shipment of honey bee queens from the US into Canada is valid for 90 days while permits from Canada to the US are valid for 10 days, and

Whereas this can create timing problems for Canadian beekeepers to meet shipping protocols, and

Whereas lengthening the time frame of permits required for Canadians to ship bees into the US from 10 days to 45 days would not increase health risks to the US beekeeping industry

Therefore be it resolved that the CHC lobby the ABF and AHPA to increase the permit period from 10 days to 45 to 90 days.