

## Developing a National Pollinator Conservation Policy Framework for Canada



### Key takeaways

To protect species, we must understand them. Conservation management needs to be supported by scientific evidence.

Pollinator/ bee conservation is categorized under one broad group without the recognition or value given to the broad range of species.

Extensive evidence shows that native bees and wild pollinators should be prioritized over honeybees due to their pollination services. Conserving diverse species is important to maintain resilience towards ongoing environmental stressors.

Key threats – pathogen spillover, climate change, pesticide use (incl. neonicotinoids) & habitat loss.

The current federal process for listing and recovery for at-risk species (**SARA**) is extremely slow, and there is a lack information on a vast majority of pollinators in Canada.

### Public understanding and political will

90% of Canadians believe that species conservation is important (McCune et al., 2017 FACETS). Intense public interest for pollinator conservation (e.g. Ontario)

Despite high interest, public knowledge re: pollinator issues are limited.

Ideas about responsibility for wild bee protection vary across the country.

Current policies mostly focus on honeybees, neonicotinoids, monarchs and habitat creation. A more holistic, interdisciplinary and evidence-based approach to policymaking needs to be adopted.

A framework for an evidence-based National Pollinator Policy for Canada is being developed by Dr. Rachel Nalepa.



### How to identify, approach and build affective coalitions with key stakeholders?

- How to identify key stakeholders when there are so many?
  - ✓ Identify support groups and beneficiaries first.
- How can we build effective coalitions?
  - ✓ Raise awareness through citizen science
  - ✓ Work with umbrella organization/ associations to educate, target misinformation and spread awareness.
  - ✓ Build outreach programs to promote open conversations and gain trust of key stakeholders.
  - ✓ Collaborate with and identify, address and alleviate concerns of key stakeholders.
  - ✓ Source funding and resources for farmers interested in pollinator friendly solutions.
- How do you influence policy makers?
  - ✓ Provide evidence-based feedback/opinion to government documents open for public commenting.
  - ✓ Lobby hard and share evidence-based recommendations.
  - ✓ Build relationships and network with local government officials.



### How to best deal with partisanship?

- Use ecosystem services value, economic reasons for those who do not believe in protecting species for their intrinsic value.
- Work with influential members of the group (role-modelling) to raise awareness and acceptance.

### Feedback from this session will be incorporated into future development of a national pollinator policy framework over the next two years.

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Resources: