

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Rick Fraser  
BC Timber Sales  
2000 South Ospika Boulevard  
Prince George, BC  
V2N 4W5

RE: Pest Management Plan and Apiaries

Dear Rick,

Thanks again for contacting me and asking for my input on the Prince George Timber Sales Pest Management Plan. I would like to add a few concerns in my role as President of the Prince George Beekeepers Association.

In consideration of the global decline in pollinating insects, especially honeybees and wild bumblebees, the Prince George Beekeepers Association requests the notification by mail of all aerial herbicide spraying locations several months in advance of spraying activity.

In addition, we would like to express our concern that the impacts of aerial herbicide spraying on declining wild bumblebee and domestic honeybee populations have never been studied. Herbicide spraying suppresses wild pollinating plant species including fireweed, clover, blueberry and many other species that wild and domestic bees rely on for their forage. There is good reason to believe the suppression of these forage species do not have positive impacts on their populations. Other research has drawn a link between pesticide use and Colony Collapse Disorder, but again, such research with respect to herbicide spraying on our public forests and bee populations has never been undertaken. Good policy should ask questions first and shoot later, not the other way around.

Walter Steidle

President,  
Prince George Beekeepers Association

CC:

Hon. Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture  
Hon. Terry Lake, Minister of Environment  
Paul Van Westendorp, Manager, MCMAL Apiculture Program  
Manuel Mariotto, Ministry of Environment  
Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester