

25 years ago, you could see rusty-patched bumble bees buzzing all over Southern Ontario. Today, you're unlikely to see one. But you can ***Bee the Change*** today and save our pollinators!

September 23, 2016

Ms. Pamela Grow

Dear Ms. Grow,



Our pollinators are in crisis.

Conservation scientists—and our very own citizen scientists—report a sharp decline in populations of both wild and domesticated pollinators, from bumble bees to honey bees and many other insects.

Pollinators are critical to our ecosystems and they ensure the reproductive success of plants and the survival of the wildlife that depend on those plants for food and shelter. They are responsible for 1 in 3 bites of food you eat, which is worth billions of dollars to our economy.

Ontario Nature—with the support of members like you—can take action today to save our pollinators. Will you please join us and *Bee the Change* with your special gift of \$50?

Right now, Ontario Nature is uniquely positioned to confront the pollinator crisis and reverse this alarming trend. That's because our *Bee the Change* campaign involves attacking this issue in a variety of ways: you can help us take legal action, raise awareness, work with municipalities to create Bee Cities and inspire individual action! We can't do this work alone!

To *Bee the Change* we want to see in our province, we need \$100,000. We've already received \$50,000 in funding and we are asking members like you to help us raise the other \$50,000 this fall. Here's how you'll help us take action:

please
turn over...

- You'll raise your voice with us in Federal Court and the Ontario Legislature. The Canadian government unlawfully registered 2 neonics (pesticides especially harmful to pollinators) without consultation or reviewing scientific evidence. And we want our province to take the lead and ban these chemicals.
- You'll fund education programs to raise awareness about our wild pollinators.
- You'll help create Bee Cities. We're working with municipalities to adopt simple but important pollinator-friendly policies.
- You'll help our Youth Council and other volunteer groups plant pollinator gardens, and educate other Ontarians about how to create pollinator gardens as well.

Will you join us and *Bee the Change*?

Ontario Nature is the only organization that can take action in these 4 crucial and interconnected ways. And we must act now.

You can read more about how your gift today helps us take action to protect pollinators on the enclosed note. And you can use the enclosed reply form to make your special gift today.

Together, we can *Bee the Change*. But, we must act quickly.

Imagine being able hear the hum and buzz of dozens of bumble bees in your own garden or terrace and know that YOU were part of saving our pollinators. Please, join us and make your special gift today!

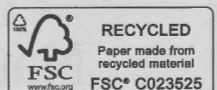


Yours for nature,

Caroline Schultz

Caroline Schultz
Executive Director

P.S. Will you Bee the Change and help save our pollinators today? We urgently need to raise \$50,000. Please, take action with Ontario Nature!



Ms. Grow, will you

Bee the change



Yes, Caroline! I will *Bee the Change* and help save our pollinators today!

Here's my gift of:

☐ \$50




☐ \$60

☐ \$70

☐ I prefer to give \$_____

☐ I have enclosed a cheque payable to Ontario Nature

OR

☐ I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my: ☐  ☐  ☐ 

Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Information Update:

My phone number is: _____

My email address is: _____

By providing your email address, you consent to us contacting you from time to time. Ontario Nature respects your privacy and does not share email addresses.

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Ms. Pamela Grow United
States



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***Bee the Change* for pollinators you love—and we all need!**



Yellow banded bumble bee

Status: Special Concern, added to Species at Risk List in June 2016

- found in mixed woodlands, particularly for nesting and overwintering, and in open habitat such as native grassland, farmlands and urban areas
- emerges in early spring, likely an important pollinator of early blooming wild flowering plants like wild blueberry as well as agricultural crops like apples, cranberry and alfalfa
- dandelion flowers are one of the few sources of nectar and pollen for queen bumble bees coming out of hibernation, so don't mow or pull your dandelions until other flowers are abundant

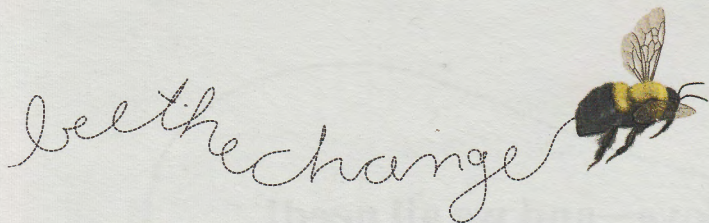


Monarch butterfly

Status: Special Concern, has been on the Species at Risk List since before 2008

- throughout life cycle, they use 3 different types of habitat: caterpillars feed on milkweed plants in meadows and open areas, adult butterflies can be found in diverse habitats where they feed on nectar from a variety of wildflowers, and Monarchs winter in forests in central Mexico
- travel up to 3,000km between Canada and Mexico, some can travel 80km in a single day
- caterpillars can store toxins from milkweed plants in their bodies as they feed, and these toxins stay in their system making the adults poisonous to bird predators

Will YOU *Bee the Change* and help save our pollinators today?



YOU can *Bee The Change* by joining and helping us take action in 4 critical ways:

Bee there in Federal Court and the Ontario Legislature!

Pesticides like neonics are registered federally, and The Pest Management Regulatory Agency is legally required to have "reasonable certainty" that a pesticide will cause no harm to the environment before registering it. Yet, it has failed to ensure it had the scientific information to determine the risks of two neonic pesticides to pollinators. The agency has also registered a number of neonic-containing pesticides for years without the public consultation required by law. We know that neonics play a role in mass bee die-offs and can contaminate soil, water and vegetation for months. How can there not be an impact on the health of other species like amphibians and birds? And what are the impacts on human health?



Massive corporate interests, up until now, have trumped science. Why is our federal government not ensuring we have the science and are making it widely available when considering registering these chemicals for use? We must ensure our governments comply with the laws meant to protect biodiversity, the environment and people. This is why Ontario Nature is challenging the federal government in court. Meanwhile, here in Ontario, we have been successful in convincing our government to reduce the use of neonics. But we are calling for an outright ban.

Bee Planting!

Our Youth Council and other volunteer groups will create viable pollinator habitat by planting native species that bloom throughout the year. With your support, we'll undertake planting projects in communities across Ontario and on our network of nature reserves. And we'll also develop materials and resources to share with Ontarians on how to plant their own pollinator garden.



Bee Aware!

Our Youth Council is developing education programs, including workshops and educational resources to raise awareness about Ontario's wild pollinators and actions you can take to help them.

Create Bee Cities!

We're encouraging municipalities to adopt pollinator-friendly policies and practices. We are currently advising the City of Toronto on these exact issues as a member of their Pollinator Advisory Group.



Ontario
Nature
85TH ANNIVERSARY

Get the honey



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