



Feb. 20, 2017

The Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health
Via Email Hon.Jane.Philpott@Canada.ca

Dear Minister Philpott,

Re: Ban on imidacloprid pesticide

On behalf of BC Nature, representing 53 clubs and 6,300 members across British Columbia, I am submitting comments on the proposed ban of imidacloprid, a commonly used neonic in Canada.

BC Nature supports a ban on imidacloprid because of the dangers it poses to bees and other pollinators as well as other species, including butterflies, earthworms and birds. We urge you to implement the ban as soon as possible and not wait 3-5 years.

We depend upon our pollinators to promote the growth of fruits and seeds of many of our food crops. Bees have been declining at alarming rates due to habitat loss, pathogens and climate change. Neonicotinoid pesticides have also been implicated in this decline. Many of our insectivorous bird species, like Barn Swallows, are declining rapidly in Canada and neonic insecticides are implicated in these declines.

Diminished pollination of plants would cause substantial impact on our food systems, ecosystem functions and biodiversity. Such a scenario is unacceptable to us as citizens and naturalists and therefore we support a ban on imidacloprid.

Thank you for running a consultation period to ask Canadians our opinion on such an important topic to our health and the health of our ecosystems.

Yours truly,

Alan E. Burger, PhD
President: BC Nature
(Federation of BC Naturalists)

CC Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
CC Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food