

Enhancing Green Spaces  
in Communities



Mise en valeur des espaces  
verts au sein des collectivités



Dear Community,

We all love to see pollinators like honey bees in our gardens, but did you know that they rely on the flowers we grow to feed their colonies? If honey bees don't collect enough pollen and nectar, their hives won't have enough nutrient-rich food to eat.

That's why it's important to plant pollinator-friendly flowers that are nutritious food sources for pollinators like the honey bee. To support honey bee health, Canada's agriculture community created **Bees Matter**, an initiative dedicated to honey bee health. This initiative is supported by a variety of organizations including: Grain Farmers of Ontario; Canadian Horticultural Council; Canola Council of Canada; CropLife Canada; Bayer CropScience; Syngenta and Canadian Seed Trade Association.

As part of the initiative—and with support of the Canadian Honey Council—a new program called **Buzzing Gardens** was launched, where Canadians can help feed honey bees by signing up at [www.beesmatter.ca](http://www.beesmatter.ca) for a free Buzzing Garden seed kit, which includes pollinator-friendly plants that were reviewed and approved by Pollinator Partnership Canada such as the ones included with this letter.

In 2015 we have asked our judges to approach this year's entrants to learn more about existing pollinator habitats. Our judges are interested in hearing about any pollinator-friendly initiatives within your community. For example:

- Has your community planted a pollinator-friendly garden?
- Did you choose any specific plants to help attract pollinators?
- Have any of your gardens been designed with pollinators in mind?

A special award for the most pollinator-friendly community will then be presented at the Symposium and Awards ceremony in Kamloops, B.C - September 30 to October 3, 2015.

For more information about Buzzing Gardens or the Bees Matters partnership that's made the program possible, please visit: [www.beesmatter.ca](http://www.beesmatter.ca)

If you have any questions about this year's special award or judging criteria, please contact us at [bloom@cib-cef.com](mailto:bloom@cib-cef.com)

*Communities in Bloom*