



The Alberta Beekeepers Commission is hiring!

Beekeeping in Alberta

Alberta is currently home to over 40% of all Canadian honey bee colonies and is the largest producer of honey in Canada. Additionally, Alberta's bees and beekeepers work closely with the hybrid Canola seed industry, pollinating seed production fields in southern Alberta. Beekeeping, the production of honey and pollination services are significant economic drivers in Canada and Alberta. The economic impact of these ecosystem services totals approximately \$2B in Alberta alone, as well as providing a significant environmental benefit.

The Alberta Beekeepers Commission represents approximately 200 Eligible Producers and more than 90% of the 318,000 colonies in Alberta. Commercial apiaries range in size from 100 colonies to more than 10,000 colonies and are located throughout the province.

In addition to a strong commercial sector, beekeeping has become a thriving hobby industry in Alberta, with more than 1,000 hobbyist beekeepers across the province.

Purpose

The core purpose of the new Tech Transfer Team Lead is to provide leadership and expertise to facilitate the growth and sustainability of Alberta's beekeeping industry. The Tech Team Lead will promote networking among a diverse group of stakeholders including: the beekeeping industry, municipal, provincial, and federal governments, other commodity organizations, colleges, universities, and stakeholders. The Tech Team Lead will bridge the gap between science and its practical application to Alberta's beekeepers. In addition, the Tech Team Lead will develop and provide, in conjunction with partners, training, extension and educational programs that result in the enhancement of Alberta's beekeeping industry.

Responsibilities and Activities

The Tech Team Lead will drive the development and delivery of a robust extension and Integrated Hive Management program that addresses major needs, trends, issues, and knowledge gaps related to beekeeping in Alberta. The Tech Team Lead will:

- Work directly with beekeepers to implement an Integrated Hive Management program
- Network/liaise with commercial and hobby beekeepers
- Coordinate and liaise with provincial and federal researchers and laboratories in the province
- Identify and disseminate new and emerging technologies to enhance the growth and sustainability of Alberta's beekeeping industry

- Coordinate and present at technical meetings, workshops and field schools to producers, agricultural fieldmen, crop producers, and other specialists
- Seek project funds from various provincial and federal funding agencies and industry organizations
- Bring leadership that promotes networking between the beekeeping industry, governments, other commodity organizations, other Tech Teams, and educational institutions
- Provide apiculture and entomology expertise, advice, training, extension and educational programs to other partners to enhance the health of bees, pollination and honey production for Alberta's beekeepers
- Facilitate strategic alliances with existing and potential stakeholders to plan regional and provincial initiatives that lead to the growth and sustainability of the industry
- Provide expertise to stakeholders that include beekeeping and crops organizations that benefit from honey bee pollination

Scope

- Provide leadership and strategic direction to support the growth and sustainability of Alberta's beekeeping industry
- Tech Team Lead role may encompass related duties of a program leader, scientist, applied researcher, extension specialist, technology transfer, policy advisory and consultant as required
- Has knowledge of the current status and focus of both basic and applied research in North America
- Will identify emerging issues in bee health and food safety, and work with the Provincial Apiculture Unit and other regulatory agencies to develop strategies to manage risks and support market access
- Work outside the existing paradigm to create new synergies and innovative solutions
- Lead, manage, collaborate on projects with specific or multiple stakeholders, single or multi-disciplinary and geographically diverse to support the goals of Alberta's beekeeping industry
- Integrate knowledge to develop solutions in a wide range of related areas including pollination ecology, cropping systems, bee husbandry, breeding, nutrition, disease, pest control and economics

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Minimum M.Sc. (equivalencies will be considered)
- Some demonstrated experience working with bees and beekeepers, preferably in a commercial setting
- Knowledge of Integrated Hive Management practices
- Good leadership and partnering skills, with the ability to lead a tech team
- Strong ability to work as part of a team or independently
- Some research background in apiculture. If not formally through a graduate degree, at least informally through participation in research projects – including skill in use of computers for communication, data collection and statistical analyses
- A strong knowledge of grant writing and project management techniques and tools, with strong organizational, planning and management skills including; human resources and budget.
- An ability to effectively communicate via writing and oral presentations.
- Exceptional problem-solving skills, innovative, proactive, and responsive to change
- Ability to perform self-directed and independently

- A valid and clean driver's license.
- Experience in doing basic lab analyses of bees and bee pathogens (or equivalent) is preferred
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and being in charge of successful projects
- Willingness and ability to travel widely across the province
- Willingness and ability to work with hazard substances, such as miticides, lab chemicals, dry ice, liquid nitrogen
- Willingness to perform overtime work during peak periods of sampling etc
- No allergies to bee stings or physical impairments that would prevent beekeeping (i.e. ability to lift heavy boxes)

Salary Range:

\$60,000 - \$80,000

Please submit your resume with references to:

Connie Phillips

Executive Director

Alberta Beekeepers Commission

Connie.phillips@albertabeekeepers.ca

This position will remain open until the best possible candidate is found.