

ALBERTA  
**BEEKEEPERS**  
COMMISSION

2018  
ANNUAL REPORT

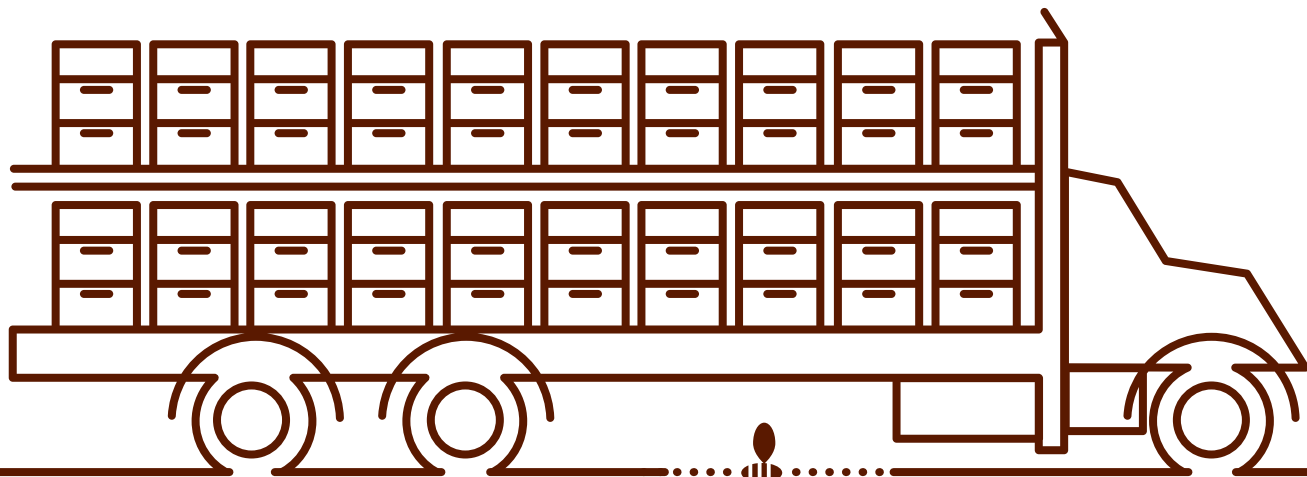


**Our Vision:**

To lead a healthy and sustainable beekeeping industry.

**Our Mission:**

To develop and implement initiatives to improve the health of honeybee colonies, promote the quality of our products and services, and expand partnerships, markets and opportunities.



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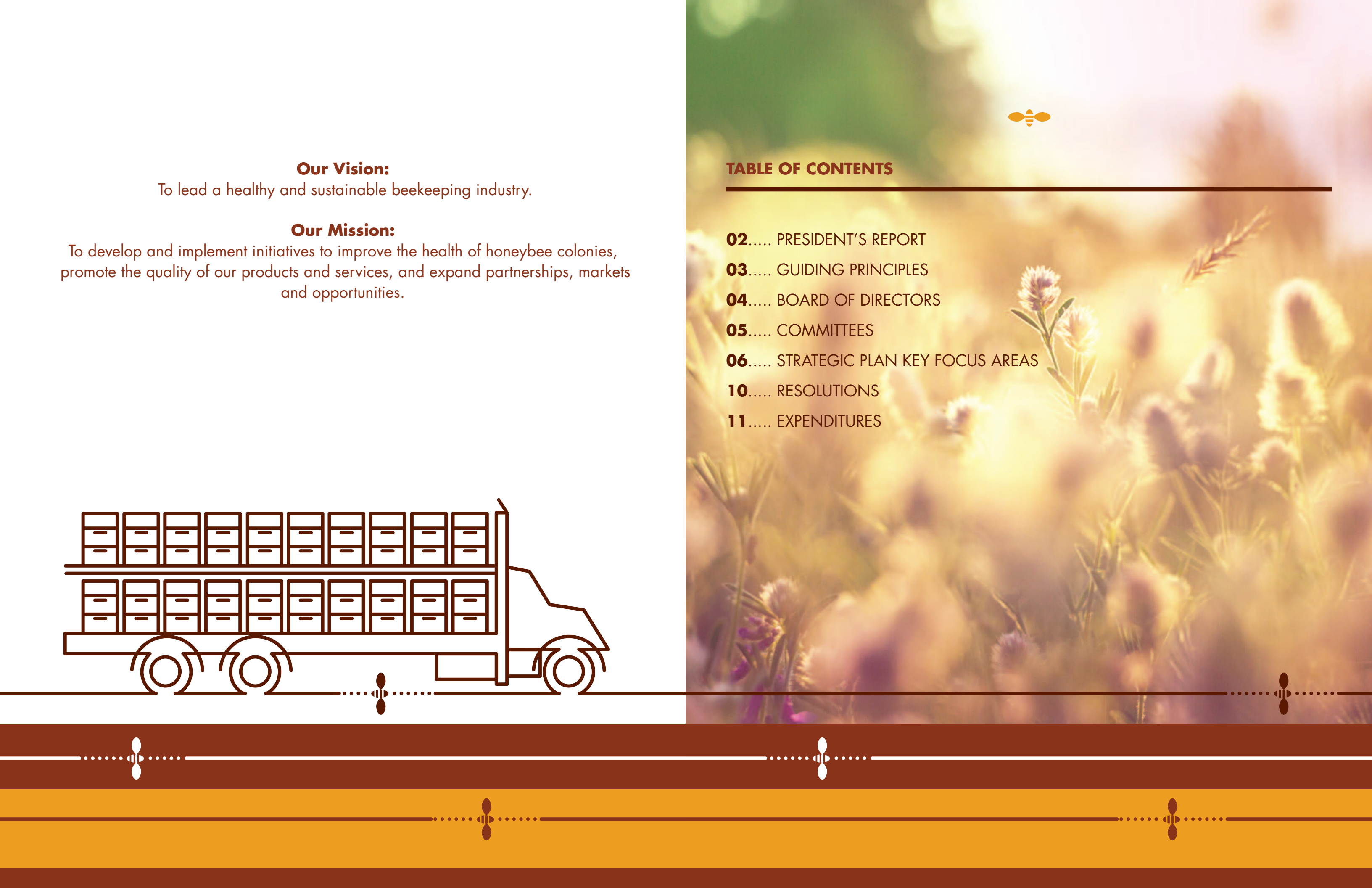
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## President's Report

2018 was a year of change for the Alberta Beekeepers Commission.

As beekeepers we learn to roll with the punches and persevere. There are periods of time when our systems of management can handle whatever challenges come our way, and other times where we need to pivot and change our strategy to achieve a better outcome.

When change is needed, sometimes we may ignore the call, or we're too slow to adapt and we are left reacting. After the dust settles, we reflect upon our actions and the outcomes, and strategize our plans for a better future.

In the past year, the ABC board has directed a lot of operational change for our commission. We have benefited from the appointment of a new Executive Director and the hiring of new support staff within the office. Operational procedures have been reviewed and updated to provide better transparency and consistency, as well make our organization more modern and professional.

The Commission is investing in the future of our industry through various research projects and initiatives. We are communicating with various levels of government, exchanging information, sharing industry insight and expertise, and collaborating on regulatory changes that impact our producers. We have been more proactive in supporting our producers and have also taken different approaches to help increase awareness and educate the public of beekeeping in Alberta.

With all this transition, the Alberta Beekeepers Commission will continue to move forward as leaders in our industry in the best interest of our eligible producers. I am encouraged by all this change and thank everyone committed to our industry and our Commission.



**Mike deJong**, President

## Guiding Principles

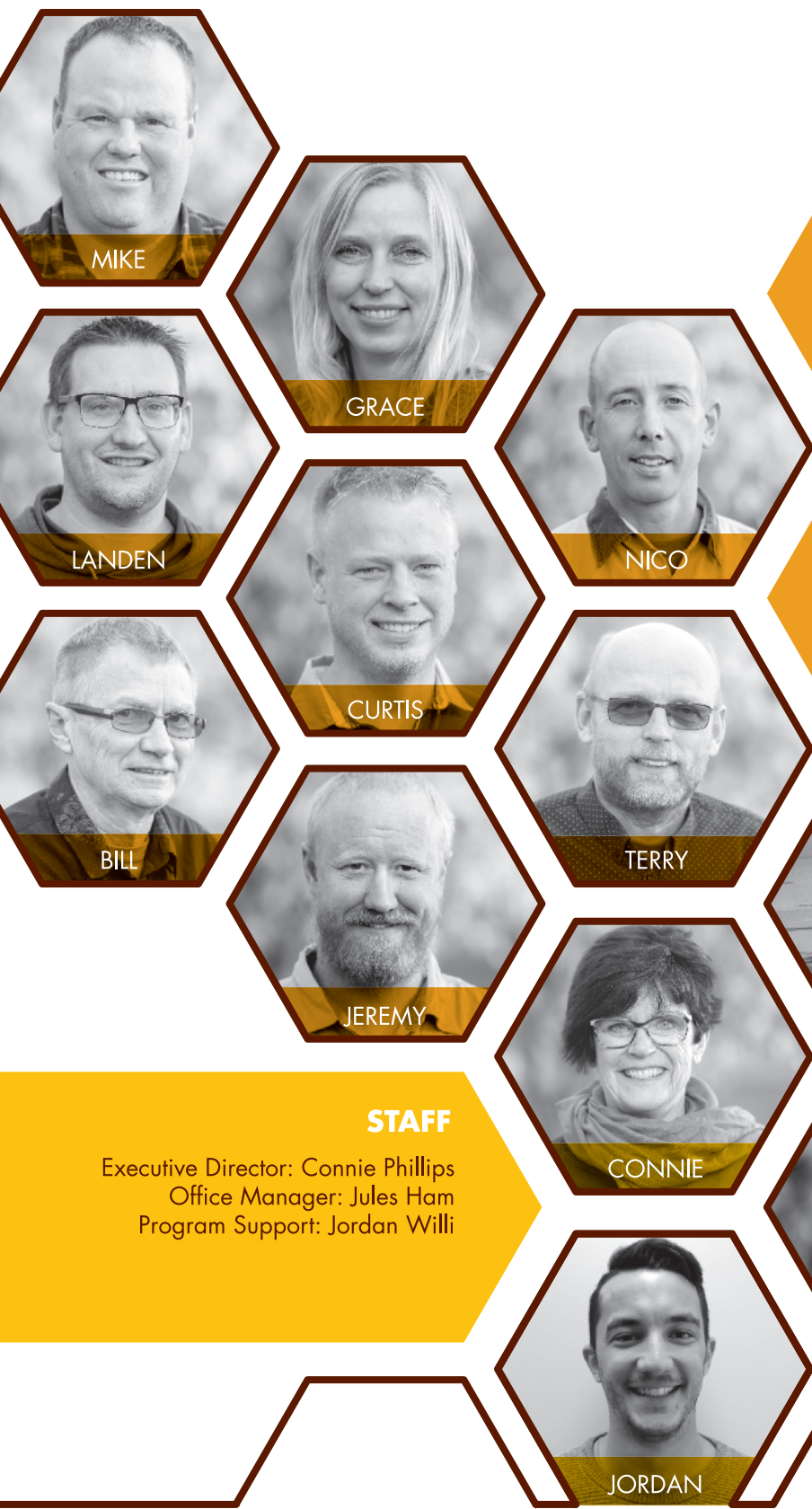
### THE ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS COMMISSION

- **Commits to accountability and transparency**
- **Supports science-based innovation and research**
- **Works in the best interests of eligible producers**



### BEEKEEPERS REGIONS OF ALBERTA





STAFF

Executive Director: Connie Phillips  
Office Manager: Jules Ham  
Program Support: Jordan Willi

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mike deJong • Hay Lakes AB  
Vice President: Landen Stronks • Iron Springs AB  
Peace Region: Bill Termeer • Sexsmith AB  
South Region: Grace Strom • High River AB  
North West Region: Curtis Miedema • Barrhead AB

Director at Large: Jeremy Olthof • Tees AB  
North East Central Region: Nico Molenkamp  
• Sherwood Park AB  
CHC Director: Terry Greidanus • Cayley AB  
Director at Large: Adam Ovinge • Granum AB  
CHC Director: Neil Specht • Etonia, SK



ABC SUPPORTS OUR 175 ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS, WORKS WITH INDUSTRY TO INNOVATE AND GROW, AND FUNDS RESEARCH TO KEEP OUR BEES HEALTHY AND OUR INDUSTRY SUSTAINABLE.

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	MEMBERS
AFSC/Crop Insurance	Mike deJong, Jeremy Olthof, Connie Phillips
Bee Health	Adam Ovinge, Nico Molenkamp, Connie Phillips
Audit	Treasurer, Howard Oudman, Kendra Stasiuk
Canadian Honey Council	Terry Greidanus, Neil Specht, Connie Phillips
Communication	Jeremy Olthof, Landen Stronks, Connie Phillips, Jules Ham
Education	Jeremy Olthof, Bill Termeer, Grace Strom, Connie Phillips
Events	Mike deJong, Ryan Olthof, Connie Phillips, Jules Ham
Food Safety & Occupational Health & Safety	Mike deJong, Connie Phillips, Jordan Willi
Government Relations	Mike deJong, Landen Stronks, Terry Greidanus, Connie Phillips
Labour	Curtis Miedema, Mike deJong, Connie Phillips, Todd Eastman
Organizational Structure	Executive Team: President, Vice President, Treasure & Canadian Honey Council. Connie Phillips
Research	Landen Stronks, Adam Ovinge, Grace Strom, Connie Phillips
Stock Replacement	Bill Termeer, Nico Molenkamp

## Strategic Plan Key Focus Areas:

### 1. Research


The research focus area has two broad goals:

- 1) Alberta is a leader in bee health and,
- 2) Alberta Honey is seen as a safe, pure and natural product.

**Goal One: Alberta is a leader in bee health.**

In 2017/2018, the Commission continued to fund and support bee health related research and invested in a total of nine research projects:

Project	Years	Funders	Total Cash Award	ABC Contribution	Status	Collaborators
Bee Researcher	2012-2018	ACIDE, ABC, Seed Companies	\$1.2M	\$275,000	Complete	AF
Honey Bee Health Surveillance	2014-2018	AAFC, CLC, MB, ABC	\$1.8M	\$74,000	Complete	GPRC
Increased Sustainability Managing Bee Pests	2014-2019	ACIDE, ABC	\$553,858	\$115,000	March 2019	UofA, UoG, UoM, AF
Bang for Your Buzz	2016-2019	CARP, ABC	\$275,000	\$80,000	March 2019	AF, UofC, AAFC
Honey Bee Stock Performance Trial	2016-2018	ACIDE, ABC	\$105,000	\$35,000	Feb 2019	NBDC, AAFC, AF
A Study of Foulbrood in Canadian Apiaries	2018-2021	AF, ABC	\$330,000	\$15,000	March 2021	AAFC, GPRC
Fumagillin Feasibility Assessment	2018	ABC		\$12,000	Complete	
Fumagillin: re-establishing the supply chain	2018	ABC, GRIN	\$20,000	\$10,000	Dec 2018	
Comprehensive Comparison of Therapeutic Efficacy of Fumagillin-B, Prebiotics & Probiotics against Nosema Infection of Honey Bee Colonies	2018-2020	ABC	\$57,500	\$57,500	Sept 2021	WCVM, Sask Bee



**THE TOTAL VALUE OF ABC'S CURRENT MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT TO BEE HEALTH RESEARCH IS \$270,533.00**

**Goal Two: Alberta Honey is seen as a safe, pure and natural product**

Alberta is the number one honey producer in Canada, and the third largest in North America. We are proud of our honey and committed to telling the story of the value, benefits, and purity of Alberta honey. In 2018, through Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program (CAPP) funding opportunities, we continue to invest in food safety, traceability and public literacy programs.

The Commission is also working to strengthen diagnostic processes and build further diagnostic capacity thorough collaboration with other bee groups to better support producers and changing legislative requirements.

### 2. Education and Extension

#### Bursary:

The Commission is committed to supporting the growth and development of future Alberta bee industry professionals, and in 2018 we were pleased to offer two \$1000 education bursaries in support of the further education of two individuals in attending an accredited University or College in Canada.

The bursary was available to Alberta residents who are actively involved in beekeeping, intend to pursue a future in beekeeping or intend to pursue a career in an area that may impact beekeeping (e.g. pathology, research or agronomy).

The Commission received 10 amazing applications that were reviewed by the Education Committee. We wish to congratulate the successful applicants Rosanna Punko and Paige Wolfe who were chosen by the board to receive the bursaries.

#### Occupational Health & Safety:

Alberta Beekeepers Commission has collaborated with AgSafe Alberta, Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA), and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to develop and implement

farm safety programs to support beekeepers. ABC has appointed staff specifically to support beekeepers in training and implementation of OH&S requirements for on the farm and around extraction plants, with a goal meet the changing legislative requirements on the farming industry.

#### Anti-Microbial Resistance:

In December 2018, new legislation will change how vets can distribute antibiotics. The ABC board and staff are committed to advocating on behalf of Alberta beekeepers to address their concerns and raise awareness of the requirements of beekeeping in the province.

ABC is working with Olds College, the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA), and the Chief Provincial Veterinarian to host a training workshop for Alberta vets and vet technicians to ensure Alberta vets are educated on the needs and requirements that support bee health and bee pathology.

#### University of Alberta – Curriculum development:

The ABC, together with a selection of Alberta honey producers, participated in a film project with The University of Alberta's Biology Department, to help develop a webinar for a course which focuses on the relationship between humans and insects.

#### Grant MacEwan:

ABC is participating with Grant MacEwan to support a group of marketing students as they learn how to develop an international export market plan for Alberta honey.

**40,170,000 POUNDS OF HONEY IS PRODUCED IN ALBERTA ANNUALLY.**





### 3. Market Development and Industry Advocacy

Advocacy is an important part of ABC's role in representing Alberta beekeepers. During 2017-2018, ABC contributed knowledge, expertise, industry positions, and interviews to the media, government organizations and other stakeholders.

ABC has been working closely with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and Economic Development and Trade to raise awareness of Alberta's beekeeping industry. Over 2017-2018, ABC staff and board members explored opportunities to further develop and expand markets for Alberta honey.

ABC has applied for funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program to look specifically at domestic market opportunities.

We continue to participate in events to raise the profile of Alberta honey and in 2019 will be participating at FarmTech in Edmonton, and the 46th Apimondia International Apicultural Congress in Montreal.

### 4. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

ORGANIZATION	HIGHLIGHTS
<b>Alberta Agriculture &amp; Forestry (AF):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ABC participated in the Deputy Minister round table discussions and helped identify the top priorities of labour, trade, and leveling the playing field to be brought forward at July Federal Provincial Territorial meeting.</li><li>Provided insight and input to developing a provincial strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance</li></ul>
<b>National Bee Diagnostic Centre – Technology Access Centre (NBDC- TAC) Advisory Board</b>	Provided strategic guidance, fiduciary oversight, stakeholder connections, and advocacy for the NBDC-TAC
<b>Federal Government Roundtable on Labour</b>	In collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, conducted cross-Canada consultations as part of the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program's Primary Agriculture Review.
<b>Alberta Environment and Parks (AE&amp;P)</b>	Collaborated with AE&P to develop best practices and protocols for placing bees on Crown Land
<b>Crops and Chops... an Alberta Grown Reception</b>	Participated with nine other Alberta producer organizations to host an annual government reception to advocate for our agriculture industries
<b>Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program (CAPP):</b>	In Alberta, CAPP represents a federal/provincial investment of \$406 million in strategic programs and initiatives for the agricultural sector. ABC has strategically aligned our objectives with the CAPP opportunity to position ourselves to benefit from the available funding in support of our producers and the Alberta honey industry.
<b>Crop Sector Working Group (CSWG):</b>	ABC actively participates in the CSWG, an inclusive partnership of eight Alberta crop sector organizations, committed to addressing and aligning agriculture and environmental policies and priorities in the province.
<b>Agriculture Industry Labor Council of Alberta (AILCA) and Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council:</b>	ABC continues to work with both AILCA and CHARC advocating on behalf of Alberta's beekeepers.



5. Operations

The Bee office has gone through an extensive transformation over the past year.

In September 2017, Connie Phillips commenced as Executive Director of the ABC, with the ABC board of directors identifying several key priority areas of focus for the 2017/18 year.

**ABC Accounts**  
The ABC accounting system has undergone a complete overhaul, transformation and update. The accounting principles we have now adopted are in better alignment with the operational requirements of a not-for-profit corporation.

Under the direction of the ABC board, leading Canadian accounting and business advisory firm, Grant Thornton,

provided expert guidance in resolving past GST and annual filing issues. Grant Thornton also conducted an annual review of ABC’s accounts with recommendations on improvements to some financial process provided to the ABC board and staff. A producer audit committee has been established to provide an additional level of transparency around ABC’s financials.

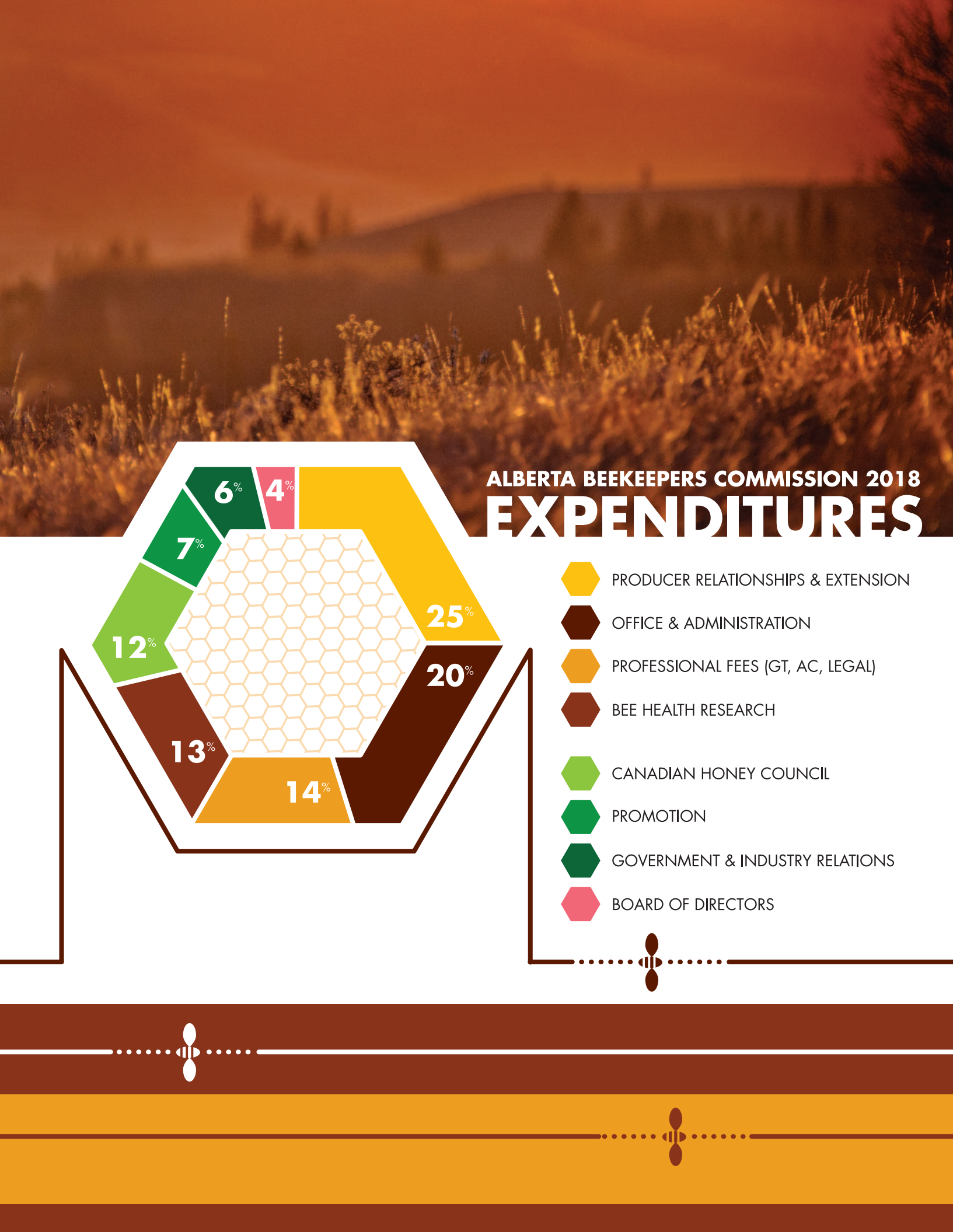
**ABC Team**  
In January 2018, after 30 plus years of devoted service to Alberta’s beekeepers, Gertie Adair resigned.

Two new staff were hired in May, Jules Ham as Office Manager and Communications guru, and Jordan Willi as Program Support and Occupational Health and Safety support for Beekeepers.

Resolutions

- 2017-1:** To promote the consumption of domestic honey with the Prairie Provinces.  
ABC has been working closely with the domestic and international marketing groups at Agriculture and Forestry to raise awareness of Alberta honey.  
  
ABC has received funding through the Canadian Agriculture Partnership program to explore domestic market opportunities.
- 2017-2:** Promote Alberta and Canadian Honey at Apimondia 2019  
ABC is currently developing a booth and promotional materials for this event. ABC will also be showcasing Alberta honey and honey products.

- 2017-3:** Find researchers to explore the efficacy of Oxalic Acid Vaporizers  
ABC is working with Agriculture and Forestry to develop a project exploring the efficacy of Oxalic Acid Vaporizers. The project with start in late fall 2018.
- 2017-4:** Establish a Project Advisory Board with Researchers and Grant Funding Agencies Defeated.
- 2017-5:** Research new Miticides for Varroa Treatment  
The project: Increased Sustainability Managing Bee Pests is in its 5th and final year of work. ABC has committed \$115,000 in 2018/19 for this project.

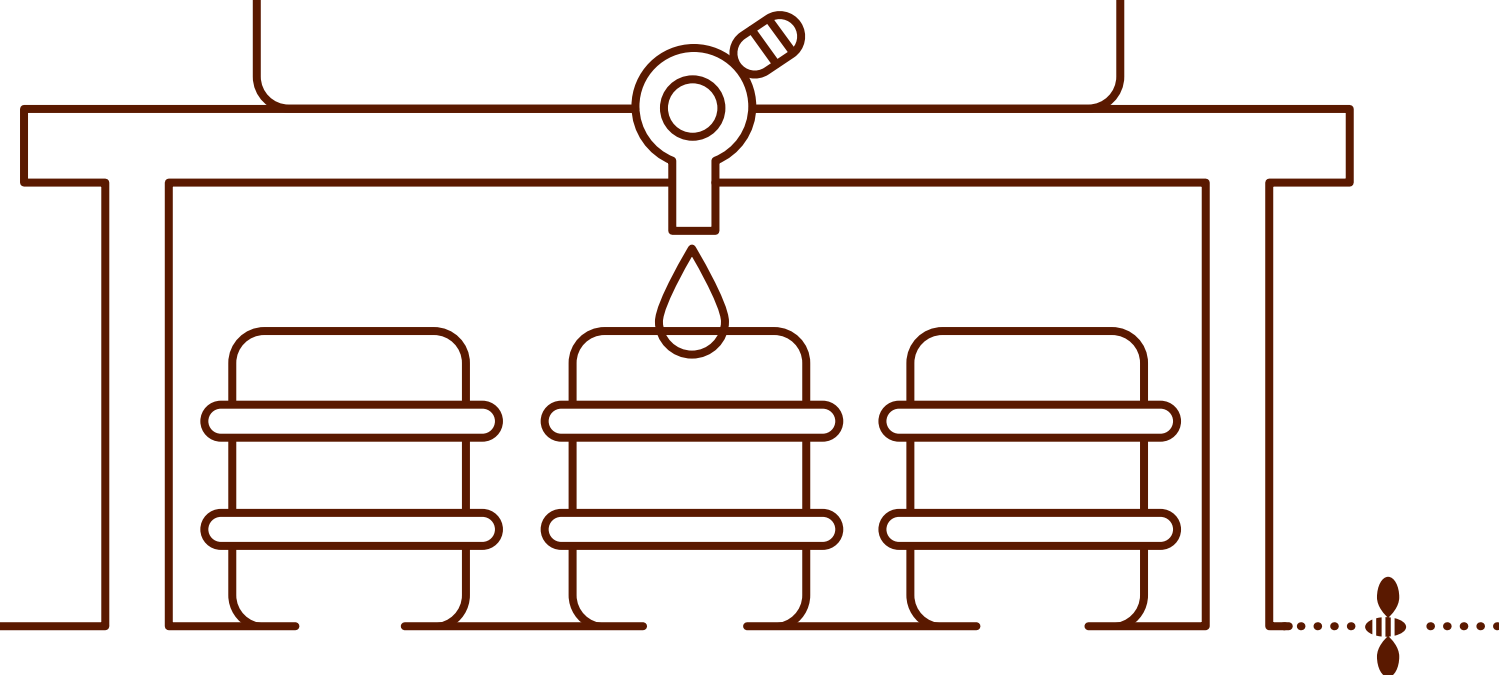




**ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS COMMISSION**

## ABC IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF:

AGSAFE ALBERTA  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD COUNCIL  
ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE  
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY  
LABOUR COUNCIL OF ALBERTA  
ALBERTA FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION  
THE ALBERTA FUNDING CONSORTIUM  
CANADIAN HONEY COUNCIL  
AGRICULTURE FOR LIFE  
CROP SECTOR WORKING GROUP  
NATIONAL BEE DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE -  
TECHNOLOGY ACCESS CENTRE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! **AGM NOVEMBER 4, 5, 6, 2019**





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