

Establishing the Pollinator Conservation Initiative



Thousands of native pollinating insect species in Canada (e.g., bumble bees, solitary bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, moths, and beetles) are responsible for billions of dollars in crop production and ecosystem functioning each year. Given the steep global decline of pollinators and the increasing unreliability of domestic bees to pollinate crops,⁶⁸ Canada has an important role to play in conserving native pollinator diversity and abundance to increase food security, agricultural resilience, and ecosystem sustainability. The Green Budget Coalition recommends that, under a joint program, AAFC and ECCC i) establish a native pollinator Monitoring and Research Fund (\$3 million per year) to support national monitoring and reporting across southern Canada and leverage independent scientific research and technological developments in support of native pollinators and their habitat; and ii) develop a Pollinator Protection Program (\$7 million per year) that provides

increased operational capacity to fund on-farm native pollinator habitat restoration, knowledge transfer capacity to producers for Integrated Pest Management and habitat restoration, and national policy development and coherence in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Recommended Investment:

\$50 million over five years [AAFC, ECCC]

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Photo: Dmitri Grigoriev

⁶⁸ See, for example, Reilly, J. R., et al. “Crop production in the USA is frequently limited by a lack of pollinators.” *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 287.1931 (2020): 20200922.