

On October 28, 2014, the *Financial Post* published a 'special report' on a class action being prosecuted by Siskinds LLP, against the manufacturers of certain pesticides known as neonicotinoids. The claim alleges, among other things, that these pesticides are causing or contributing to the declining bee population.

There are numerous falsehoods contained in the article, quite apart from its mischaracterization of the science relating to neonicotinoids.

For instance, the article claims that some beekeepers in Canada, particularly in Alberta, do not support the lawsuit, but it omits to mention that many Alberta beekeepers have significant commercial relationships with one of the chemical companies that the beekeepers have sued. The vast majority of the beekeepers who have contacted Siskinds since the commencement of the litigation have expressed strong support for the claim, and numerous have retained Siskinds directly to prosecute claims on their behalf, although this is not a requirement for them to participate in the class action.

Unfortunately, the article also falsely alleges that Siskinds "refused to explain" how beekeepers can opt out of the class action, "despite multiple requests for clarification." In fact, Siskinds received a single request from an Alberta-based beekeeper for information as to how they could opt out of the class action. Within 24 hours of receiving the request, this beekeeper was advised that the right to opt out does not arise until the court certifies the action as a class proceeding. The certification motion in this matter will not be decided until many months from now, and therefore at this time, there is no class action for beekeepers to opt out of.

Finally, the article claims that beekeepers who join the action risk being required to pay the defendants' legal fees and costs if the action is unsuccessful. This statement is false. There is no financial downside for any beekeeper who decides to support the class action.

The lawyers at Siskinds have been at all times, and continue to be, available to answer inquiries about the class actions process. For more information visit the website at <http://www.classaction.ca/actions/environmental/current-actions/neonicotinoid> or contact Siskinds with any questions.