



# Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130

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November 19, 2024

Honourable RJ Sigurdson  
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation  
Members of Executive Council  
Executive Branch  
131 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson;

**RE: Declaration of Agricultural Disaster - Extreme Loss of Honey Production**

The Council of the MD of Smoky River #130 has declared an Agricultural Disaster for Extreme Loss of Honey Production. Local honey producers reported losses between 60% to 90% of average annual production from their hives. Agronomic and environmental factors played a role in decreased honey yields in the MD of Smoky River. The Agronomic factors being a shortened flowering period and heat blast during the flowering period of Canola. The high temperatures during July of 2024 coupled with heavy rainfall immediately afterward had detrimental impacts on the canola flowers. With Canola making up to ½ of the crops in the MD this was a significant impact to the availability of flowers to develop the nectar required for honey production. This declaration is intended to provide awareness to the challenges of the local honey industry which is an important sector of agriculture in the MD of Smoky River.

Sincerely,

Robert Brochu

Reeve

c.c. Via Electronic copy.

Todd Loewen, MLA - Grande Prairie-Smoky  
Arnold Viersen, MP - Peace River-Westlock  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
Rural Municipalities of Alberta  
Provincial Agricultural Service Boards  
Alberta Beekeepers Commission  
Agriculture Financial Services Corporation