




## Floral identification of Canadian honey and pollen and development of a palynological reference booklet

**Applicant:** Beekeeping Federation of Quebec (FAQ)

**Co-Applicant:** Dr. Valerie Fournier, Laval University 

### **Granting programs:**

*Funding for this project has been provided in part through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP) on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. In Quebec, the portion intended for the agricultural-production sector is being managed by the Conseil pour le développement de l'agriculture du Québec (CDAQ).*



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### **Project Justification:**

Currently, there is only one person who provided the service of honey and pollen identification in Canada. M. Clifford Crompton worked for Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and he produced two books about palynology in Canada but he is now retired. Therefore we need to continue to provide this service which is in demand in our country. In fact some beekeepers send their honeys in Texas where a laboratory offers this service to have them analysed.

Unlike European honeys, Canadian honeys are not differentiated by their specific floral sources. The term "mixed flowers" categorizes the majority of honey sold in the country. Therefore, consumers cannot buy honeys from particular floral origins. In addition, the Canadian market is flooded with imported honeys of lower quality. The price of these "mixed flowers" honeys imported is much lower than Canadian honey, causing significant competition to local products. Finally, because pollen can be used to feed bees or sold as dietary supplement for human consumption, the labelling of plant composition would add market-value.

### **Project objectives:**

This project aims to develop the expertise in honey and pollen identification. Following the two-year period of development and practice of the identification technique, a professional-quality service will be available to all Canadian beekeepers. Given they will be able to market to a niche-market, their honey will sell at a higher price. In addition to the labelling rules sought by beekeepers in the country, the supply of special honeys will allow consumers to buy local products.

### **Project overview and objectives:**

Ms. Melissa Girard will develop the expertise of honey and pollen identification. This project will enable Canadian beekeepers to have their honey and pollen analyzed for free during the two years of this project. Thereafter, the service will continue to be offered by Ms. Girard through the CRSAD. In addition, a reference collection of pollen grains of all melliferous plants will be created. Out of this collection, a booklet and an identification key of the pollen grains will be produced.