



## Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Vernon reviews regulative updates for urban beekeeping**

On March 25, 2019, the City of Vernon held a public hearing to consider changes to its regulations to allow for urban beekeeping in backyards. The proposed bylaw updates would allow for small scale hobby beekeeping of up to two or four beehives on most properties, depending on the size of the property.

“Beekeeping adds to pollination,” said Mayor Victor Cumming, “which is a critical issue for us.” Cultivating beehives in an urban context has a positive impact on bee health, provides ecosystem services, and benefits the agricultural community.

In the past decade, a measurable decline has been observed in bee populations, which has the potential for significant ramifications for farming and orchard operations. Many crops are dependent on the pollination of crops by bees and other pollinators. In light of this, increasing opportunities for urban beekeeping are being provided by many municipalities across the province to support ongoing economic opportunities in agriculture.

The City has the ability to regulate the siting of the beehives. To this end, clear parameters have been provided to ensure beekeeping best practices would be followed, including siting setbacks and height requirements and beekeeper responsibilities to ensure safe and low impact operations. All other aspects of beekeeping are regulated by the Province, through the Ministry of Agriculture.

For more information, contact Community Infrastructure and Development Services at 250.550-3634 or [csbreception@vernon.ca](mailto:csbreception@vernon.ca).