



Bee City Canada School Application  
for Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute  
Toronto, Ontario

135 Overlea Blvd, North York, ON M3C 1B3

Name of staff and/or student applicant(s):

Lisa Wang (student), Raluca Gondor (student), Venice Cheng (student), Mandy Chen (student), Michelle Woodley (teacher), Alicia Roberge (teacher), and Luke Chanmurugan (caretaker).

**WHEREAS**, the goal of joining Bee City Canada is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats for bees and other pollinators – there are over 800 native bees (20,000 worldwide) and over 140,000 pollinator species in Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, use of pesticides, the spread of pests and diseases, and climate change; resulting in serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna; and

**WHEREAS**, schools have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on school property and in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, supporting bees and other pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of pollinator-friendliness are:

- **Healthy ecosystems** — pollinators are required for reproduction of about 85% of flowering plants globally, plants that:
  - 1) are vital for clean air and water;
  - 2) provide food, fibre, medicine and shelter for people, livestock and wildlife; and
  - 3) support the species that pollinate crops and form the basis of food webs.
- **Increased vegetable and fruit crop yields** due to insect pollination. Pollinators provide 65% of the food we eat.
- **Increased demand for pollinator friendly plant materials** from local nurseries and growers.
- **Increased support and awareness for school pollinator initiatives.**

**WHEREAS**, Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute

should become a **Bee City Canada School** because:

We are passionate about pollinators and pollinator conservation. Bees are responsible for one third of our food supply and it is imperative that we do our part to raise awareness and take action for their conservation.

We are a platinum status Eco-School and have put forth various environmental efforts. For instance, increasing environmental awareness amongst the student body, organizing clean-ups, waste audits, and strategies for waste management.

Our school community largely lives in apartments. As a result, they are physically disconnected from much of the natural environment. We want to connect more of the student body with the environment and be involved in a school-wide greening process.

We have taken action to raise awareness for the issue of pollinator decline, including having a honey-tasting booth at our Eco-Exhibition (fair) focusing on the importance and diversity of pollinators to engage students. We also utilize social media as a platform to spread awareness about pollinator health, in addition to posting up posters of native, pollinator-friendly plants at the school.

**WHEREAS**, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat:

- Provides *diverse* and abundant nectar and pollen from plants blooming in succession from early spring to late autumn.
- Provides water for drinking, cooling, nest-building and butterfly puddling.
- Has been designated pesticide-free.
- Is composed of mostly, if not all, native species of annual and perennial trees, shrubs, native grasses, wildflowers, ground cover and vines, which have co-evolved with native pollinators.
- Includes, where possible, designated pollinator zones in public spaces with signage to educate the public and build awareness.
- Provides undisturbed spaces (un-mulched areas of soil and sand, pithy stemmed stalks, leaf and brush piles, un-mowed fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering for native pollinators; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to enhance understanding among staff, students and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what each of us can do to sustain them, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee Schools:

1. **Adopt and pass** this Bee City Canada resolution.
2. **Designate a committee** of at least two teachers and two students and including (where possible) the caretaker.

Names and positions:

Lisa Wang (student), Raluca Gondor (student), Venice Cheng (student), Mandy Chen (student), Michelle Woodley (teacher), Alicia Roberge (teacher), and Luke Chanmurugan (caretaker).

3. Develop a **School Pollinator Habitat Plan**. Plant a locally native pollinator garden at your school or in the local community, using ethically grown plants. What is the overall pollinator vision for the school. Share some of the curriculum components planned.

Describe your habitat plans:

MGCI is intent on creating a pollinator garden on our school grounds to increase pollinator habitats in our area. MGCI is partnering with Ontario Nature, a charitable organization promoting wild species and wild spaces, with a strong focus on advocating for pollinators. We will also be working with members of our school community (EcoTeam, caretakers, administration, and various classes) to achieve this goal. Not only will this beautify our school grounds, but it will also offer a hands-on opportunity for our students to learn more about pollinators in their classes.

We are partnering with teachers within our school to incorporate pollinator-friendly initiatives in various classrooms. Our school club will be working with different teachers in our school to host a series of seminars, as part of our educational campaign to raise awareness for this issue.

Our garden, completed this May 2017, is situated outside the main office of our school. 200 native wildflowers have been planted, including: 72 Pearly Everlasting, 36 Lance-leaved Coreopsis, 36 Giant Sunflower, 18 Sweet Oxeye, 18 Heath Aster, and 18 Large-leaved Aster.

4. **Annually celebrate** Pollinator Week (third week of June) and, if possible, some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restorations, celebrations or promotions that showcase the school's commitment to enhancing native pollinator health through biodiversity and habitat. Involve as many people as possible. Be Creative; use dance, music, visual arts, films, presenters.

Describe your celebration plans:

MGCI is determined to get as many people involved in celebrating Pollinator Week as possible. This involvement will include events that occur throughout the week in order to raise awareness and the spirit of the school in order to make a change.

In terms of awareness, MGCI plans to use our school newspaper, the Reckoner, as a means to communicate the importance of pollinators and what actions to take. With the Reckoner, print copies will contain large, informative ads that will be eye catching and engaging as a means to begin the week. With most of the school reading the newspaper, it guarantees to bring attention to the issue. Throughout the week, MGCI also plans to hand out bee cut-outs as

reminders. Posters and signs will be placed around the school in order to provide reminders for actions to take to make a difference, and the importance of helping to save the pollinators.

Involvement is also an important part of our Pollinator Week events. A honey stand providing samples will be placed in the main floor in front of the cafeteria and will act as an educational facet. The honey is a unique way to grab attention and also intensifies the gravity of the issue that is at hand. Booths with bee costumes and signs will also be a way to get people involved and aware of the present issues of pollinators. MGCI also plans to have a spirit day, where people are encouraged to dress up in black and yellow in honour of our most prevalent pollinators: the bees. For MGCI, the main goal of Pollinator Week is to get as many students as possible, and encourage them to continue positive behaviour beyond the designated week. With a multitude of engaging activities and educational booths, we hope to reach out to as many students as possible and create a positive change.

Lastly, MGCI students plan to put together a small garden in order to increase pollinator habitat. With students involved in the gardening process, it allows students to take an active part in change, rather than remaining passive.

5. **Annually apply for renewal** to Bee City Canada and submit a report of the previous year's activities. During the year share your stories, art, photos and videos for posting on the Bee City Canada website.
  
6. **Publicly acknowledge** the school's commitment by agreeing to display Bee City Canada signage in a prominent location.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THAT:**

Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute

accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the Bee City Canada program.

Read, approved, and adopted this

21 day of August, 20 17.

Signature of School Principal:

Ricky Goldenberg

Please print name

Ricky Goldenberg

Please send application, to [applications@beecitycanada.org](mailto:applications@beecitycanada.org)