



Connecting People,
Pollinators and Places

Bee City School Application Form

___University of Toronto Schools___
(Name of School)

___**Ontario**___
(Province/Territory)

A) School Information:

School__ University of Toronto Schools_____

Address__ 371 Bloor Street_____

City____ Toronto_____ Province/Territory____ Ontario_____

Postal Code__ M5S 2R7____ Phone__ 416-978-3212 _

B) Applicant Information:

Name__ Elizabeth Straszynski_____ Position____ Teacher____

Email__ estraszynski@utschools.ca____ Phone (705) 931-3586

C) Becoming a Bee City School

Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee City School (add/remove lines as needed).

UTS is highly committed to the environment. Our Envirothon has been the top team in Canada for 6 consecutive years and counting. We're a gold Ecoschool and have in-house environmental action committees. Recently, we've started an independent initiative called Bee the Change! This project's goal is to create a pollinator pathways of native plants all across the GTA, thanks to the broad catchment of our school. We aim to distribute 200 DIY pollinator garden "starter kits" to students and their families, current staff and teachers, and alumni. The success of these gardens would be supported by a website, gardening Q&A, virtual and live events as the pandemic allows. By supporting gardeners we are promoting knowledge and understanding about pollinators and biodiversity. Our project was initially funded by our school's parents association, and now we have a crowd-funding site thanks to a collaboration with Nature Canada. We are planning – and planting – for the future. We have received so much interest and support from Bee City Canada that we would be thrilled to become a part of their network. The synergy from this relationship would definitely take us to the next level.

D) Commitments and Actions

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candell - shelly@beecitycanada.org or 647-402-0133

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff 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 City Schools:

1. **Adopt this Bee City Canada Resolution. (see Section F)**
2. **Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.** The team which will be responsible for the Bee City program at your school. We recommend a committee of at least two teachers/instructors and two students as well as parent(s) and caretaking staff if possible. Expand table to add more rows, as needed.

Name	Role	Email address
Elizabeth Straszynski	Teacher supervisor	estraszynski@utschool.ca
Katherine Chien	Teacher supervisor	Katherine.chien@utschools.ca
Jessica Yu	Student Lead	yuje@utschools.ca
Luckya Xiao	Outreach	xialu@utschools.ca
Risha Reddy	Outreach	redri@utschools.ca
Aaron Zhou	Web/ IT	zhoaa@utschools.ca
Sharn Singh	Gardening liason	sinsh@utschools.ca
Maddie Standen	Art	stama@utschools.ca

3. **Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:** Outline any initiatives which aim to improve, maintain or create new habitat for pollinators. Examples could include planting a locally native pollinator garden at your school or in the local community. Describe your plans for habitat and include a plant list.

Our Bee the Change project’s goal is to create a pollinators pathway of native plants all across the GTA. We aim to distribute around 200 DIY pollinator garden “starter kits” to students, current staff and teachers, and alumni. The DIY pollinator garden “starter kits” will include a minimum target of 4 potted plants (2” - 4” pots), 3-4 packets of seed, information packages on pollinators and gardening, in an organic cotton bag with our logo.

Plans have already started for next year to continue this project and with the hopes of being able to create a pollinator garden once we are in our permanent site. We are still planning to distribute plants next year to new participants and to help this year’s participants diversify their gardens.

Promote Education about Pollinators: Outline any initiatives aimed at educating students, staff, volunteers, parents and/or the local community about pollinators.

Our Bee the Change seminar series is ongoing. We've already hosted Bee City and Ontario Nature Youth Council! We have been contacting various organizations and connections for speakers interested in giving talks on pollinators, gardening, biodiversity, and any related topics. Not only does this build interest in the project, but also will spread awareness on important biodiversity issues. Post-pandemic opportunities include live events and field trips, and more done to include pollinator education in our curriculum!

Garden success and pollinator education will be supported by gardening Q&As, webinars, social media, photo contests, and website contents.

Our Nature Canada funding will support extended outreach to new Canadians and others who may not know our glorious native plants and pollinators, as well as a student environmental conference showcasing volunteer opportunities, post-secondary programs, and careers.

4. **Celebrate Pollinators:** Tell us about how your school will celebrate National Pollinator Week and/or participate in other pollinator-themed events.

Through our project's Google Classroom, we will be hosting a "Spot the pollinator" competition, webinars, and social media 'swarm' events (e.g. pollinator of the day posts and fun facts)! Other events are TBA, based on student suggestions.

Through Bee the Change, we have been hosting pollinator-themed events since January 2021! (Pop-up party after assembly, volunteer work bees, and webinars.)

E) Other Requirements

1. Publicly acknowledge receiving your Bee City School designation through your website, social media and by displaying Bee City Canada signage in a prominent location.
2. Annually apply to renew your Bee City School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

F) Resolution and Signature

WHEREAS the goal of Bee City Canada is to promote healthy, biodiverse habitats in communities across Canada.

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THAT bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of plants, reptiles, birds, insects, mammals and humans; and

THAT schools have the opportunity to take actions to support pollinators by creating healthy habitats within their grounds and the broader community; and

THAT supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness, increases interactions and engagement in the school and reminds of our responsibilities to take care of mother earth for future generations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT The University of Toronto Schools accept the designation and commits to the 3 pillars of the Bee City Canada Program; creating healthy biodiverse pollinator habitat, educating whenever possible and celebrating.

Approved and adopted this

_____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signature of Principal/ Official: _____

Please print Principal/ Official's name: _____

Submitted by: __E. Straszynski__ **Date:** _____

G) Requested Attachments

With your completed application, please provide:

1. Your school logo (in png format) and usage guidelines.
2. A short 50-100 word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City School. Include photos if possible and ensure there is parental permission. This will help us share the exciting news through our social media outlets.

By becoming a Bee School, we are joining a broader community of schools and cities to support pollinators, and the gifts of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and mental health benefits of being outside that they provide. We would be proud to extend UTS's reputation for global citizenship

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and maintaining our tradition of community service. We have already received so much interest and support from Bee City Canada that we can only imagine how far this enhanced synergy will take us!

Send your completed application to: applications@beecitycanada.org.