



## Bee City Campus Application Form

Humber College  
Ontario

### **A) Campus Information:**

College/University: Humber College

Address: 205 Humber College Blvd

City: Etobicoke      Province/Territory: Ontario

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candel - [shelly@beecitycanada.org](mailto:shelly@beecitycanada.org) or 647-402-0133.

Postal Code: M9W 5L7 Phone: (416) 675-3111

## B) Applicant Information:

Name: Devon Fernandes

Position: Sustainability Manager

Email: devon.fernandes@humber.ca Phone: (416) 859 5423

## C) Fees

There are no fees for the initial application, but fees will apply upon yearly renewal.

3000 or Less Students	FREE
3001 – 5,000	\$200
5001 – 10,000	\$300
10,001 – 20,000	\$400
+20,000 Students	\$500

## D) Becoming a Bee City Campus

Briefly summarize why your College/University should become a Bee City Campus (add/remove lines as needed).

Sustainability is one of Humber College's six values and is a strategic priority in Humber's Strategic Plan 2018-2023, along with the goal of being a national leader in developing sustainable campuses.

Humber recognizes that bees are a keystone species, pollinate approximately 70% of the world's crops, and without them our grocery stores will be empty. Sadly, the gentle bee faces existential threat due to a variety of factors including habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation, industrial farming practices and climate change.

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As Humber is an urban institution there is a high priority and importance of working towards connecting the natural world to our students, faculty, and staff. Being a Bee City Campus is a concrete action that our community can take to better our relationship with the natural environment. Humber has the capacity to play a large role in advocating for native species with 250 acres of natural areas.

Humber is committed to educating the public about bees, we installed hives at our North and Lakeshore campuses as well as the Arboretum to be reared using organic and ethical practices. Honey bees are one of the more instantly recognizable of the bee species. As "ambassadors" of a sort for other bees -- the majority of which are solitary and ground-nesters and thus rendered "invisible" to most people -- honey bees can be a means of starting a conversation about the plight of native bees and how we can best repair our relationship with them. Hives are located near the staff lounge at North Campus (second floor of K building) or at Lakeshore Campus by the main cafeteria (on the second floor of the L building).

Humber has huge successes in raising awareness for bees both native and honeybees, including a large communication platform created surrounding Humber bees "creating a buzz". Humber is working towards increasing the relationship the community has with bees. We have a newly installed pollinator garden (2019) in front of the Centre for Urban Ecology. In addition, the honey from both campuses is harvested in the summer/fall of each year and used by the Humber Culinary Management program as well as prizes for sustainable events. Not only has there been such positive results of Humber having bees on campus, but it has also made the partnership between the College and Arboretum stronger. In partnership with Humber Arboretum, Humber offers Sustainable Beekeeping courses with topics ranging from equipment and Toronto native bees and growing native plants.

## **E) Commitments and Actions**

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff about the vital role that pollinators play in a healthy ecosystem, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Campuses:

1. **Adopt the Bee City Canada Resolution (see section G).**
2. **Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.** The team will be responsible for overseeing the Bee City program. We recommend a committee of at least two faculty members, 2-5 students, campus staff, including employees from the campus grounds department.

Name (alphabetical)	Role	Email address
Ana Gabriela Buttelli Hentschke	Student & IGNITE Board Member	
Ashnaa Mathan	Student	
Avalon Plourde	Student	
Devon Fernandes	Sustainability Manager & Facilitator of Bee City Pollinator Team	
Ella Sabourin	Student	
Fran Freeman	Humber Beekeeper	
Jasmine Bates	Student	
Jimmy Vincent	Coordinator of Education, Camps, and Community Outreach	
John Coffman	Humber Beekeeper	
Kavelle Maharaj	Event Coordinator/Community Liaison	
Liane Cook	Program Coordinator Horticulture Apprenticeship	
Lynn Short	Instructor, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology; Environmental Stewardship Coordinator for Humber Arboretum	
Roman Fuzak	Maintenance and Custodial Services Manager	
Scott Iles	Groundskeeper	
Veronica Barahona	Manager, Student Engagement, IGNITE	

3. **Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:** Outline your initiatives which aim to improve, maintain or create new habitat for pollinators. Examples could include planting a native plant pollinator garden on or off your campus, increase the biodiversity of the native plants, reduce or eliminate pesticide use, reduce frequency of mowing in certain areas, etc. Describe your plans and include a plant list, if possible.

- Humber follows NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care which means we use rescue treatments using non-organic pesticides to control insect and disease problems that can cause significant harm, providing there are no effective organic alternatives.
- Increase large pollinator gardens and evaluate groundskeeping and mowing standards.

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- Continue to implement action that incorporates the needs of all wild bees, recognizing that each species has specific needs such as nest material, forages, plants, shrubs and trees.
- Using a variety of techniques to ensure that nesting species material (e.g. tree trunks, deceased stems, etc...) are left to decrease risks of disposing potential habitats.
- Continue the Humber Arboretum's work to manage invasive species (e.g., Norway Maple, Manitoba Maple, Common Buckthorn, Dog Strangling Vine, Goutweed, Phragmites australis, Garlic Mustard, Lily of the Valley, Lamium).
- Scale the Humber Arboretum's work to conserve our natural areas to maintain ecological integrity and protect our environmentally significant local species (e.g., Maidenhair Fern, False Nettle, Foxtail Sedge, Shagbark Hickory, White Trout Lily, Blunt-leaf Waterleaf).
- Humber College, the City of Toronto, and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority commissioned a terrestrial ecologist to identify vulnerable (and invasive) ecosystems and species in the Humber Arboretum. We are awaiting the report and will add any feasible recommendations to this list.
- Bee City Pollinator Team will identify actions and areas on campus to increase the quantity of pollinator friendly plantings.
- Include a research question in the next Humber Global Systems Gap Challenge for students to understand the importance of pollinators and develop solutions for creating spaces for them in urban settings.

**Promote Education about Pollinators:** Outline your initiatives aimed at educating students, faculty, staff and visitors. This may also include pollinator signage around campus.

In order to increase awareness and education on campus several actions are taken across the College, including:

- Sustainable Urban Beekeeping courses offered through partnership with Humber College and Humber Arboretum.
- Humber Arboretum promotes education and awareness through events, tours and educational experiences.
- Humber honey jars are given away as swag at sustainable events.
- Promotion through Office of Sustainability and various Humber social media accounts (e.g. [Video about the bees on campus](#)).

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- A large vinyl display was created to draw attention to the bees on campus (i.e. creating a buzz).
- Humber's food learning garden fosters connection to the land as well as local food production, pollination, and food security.
- Signage posted in high traffic area to raise awareness for bees on campus.
- Raising awareness about endangered native bees, encouraging pollinator gardens and corridors of native plantings, and promoting citizen science.
- Humber's bees are mentioned on campus tours for new and prospective students.
- Humber's Sustainability Library Guide has a section focused on the Natural Environment, which includes resources such as Healthy Yards.
- The creation of Humber's Honey Bee Hub focusing on educational teachings for the apiary program.
- The GARDENS Pod Project Summer Education program virtual workshop or short learning video mentions pollinators.
- The Principal's Office Wellness Wednesday initiative will have a session focused on the importance of bees, different uses of Honey whether it is in food or natural products.

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

- Office of Sustainability and Humber Arboretum will have booths (virtual pending public health restrictions) set up that are focused on beekeeping courses offered at Humber, on ID'ing some of our native bees and offering suggestions on how to improve their habitat
- Office of Sustainability events and booths give out seed papers that contain native seeds to attract pollinators.
- Humber Honey will continue to be used as prizes at sustainability-themed events to promote bees on campus.
- Social media campaigns and themed events (virtual/hybrid) will run during National Pollinator week.
- Office of Sustainability will direct people to take the Pollinator Pledge.

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- The first 50 individuals that take the pledge with the first 50 people who do will receive native wildflower packs.

## F) Other Requirements

1. Publicly acknowledge receiving your Bee City Campus 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 Campus designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.

## G) Resolution and Signature

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

**THAT** bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to land fragmentation, habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna for the planet; and

**THAT** colleges and universities 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 among campus community members and reminds us of our responsibility to take care of mother earth for future generation; and

**THAT** staff be authorized to submit the Bee City Canada Application to designate (college/university) as a Bee City School/Campus; and

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**THAT** (name of campus) accepts the designation and commits to the standards of the Bee City Canada Program.

Approved and adopted this 09 day of August, 2021.

Signature of President/Official:  \_\_\_\_\_

Please print President/Official's name: Chris Whitaker

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Candel - [shelly@beecitycanada.org](mailto:shelly@beecitycanada.org) or 647-402-0133.

**Submitted by:** Devon Fernandes **Date:** June 10, 2021

## **H) Requested Attachments**

With your completed application, please provide:

1. Your campus logo (png format) with any usage guidelines.
2. A short 50-100 word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City Campus.

Include photos if possible. This will help us share the exciting news through our social media outlets.

Humber College is proud to take actions that strengthen our sustainable culture and community. By becoming a certified Bee City Campus, it allows the Humber community to better connect with our environment and continuously evaluate how we can be better stewards to the lands we sit on. This certification allows us to prioritize pollinators and the many positive impacts they have for our environment and our wellbeing.

**Send your completed application to: [applications@beecitycanada.org](mailto:applications@beecitycanada.org).**