



### **The Buzz on Bees:**

Pollinating animals have an important role in helping plants make seeds by transferring pollen between flowering plants. In Alberta, bees are one the major pollinators for flowering plants. There are over 300 native species of bees here in Alberta, and the majority of them are solitary bees. These bees are essential in the production of the food we eat, crops we grown, and nature we enjoy. Solitary bees are not aggressive, unlike other types of social bees that swarm and live in colonies. They are very active and efficiency pollinators, visiting hundreds of blossoms a day. However, pollinators in general are in a global decline for a number of reasons, including habitat loss, pesticide use, disease, and climate change.

In urban environments, solitary bees can have a difficult time finding places to safely lay their eggs. Man-made bee hotels attract tunnel-nesting solitary bees. There are many designs for bee hotels, but the main requirement is creating tunnels to lay their eggs. Holes drilled into wood blocks work best, but bamboo or paper straws work as well. A range of tunnel sizes, proper placement, and yearly maintenance of the hotel will help ensure that the bees will use the hotel. For more information on bee hotels or other tips to [help pollinators visit the Edmonton and Area Land Trust website!](#)

By sharing this message, our Community League is entering into a [contest to win a Bee Hotel from the EFCL](#) and support the preservation of our bees!