

## Backyard Beekeeping Guide

The District of Mackenzie is now permitting backyard beekeeping in some residential areas within the townsite. The community has displayed overwhelming support to permit this activity. To ensure the safety of the bees and to mitigate any potential impacts on adjacent property owners, residents who wish to keep bees must adhere to a number of District requirements. In addition to meeting District requirements, prospective beekeepers are encouraged to undertake the following tasks prior to applying for a Backyard Beekeeping Permit.

**Note:** Rural residential properties in the Gantahaz and Gagnon subdivisions do not adhere to these regulations. Please refer to the District's Animal Control and Licensing Bylaw for information on the keeping of bees in these areas.

### 1. Understand your property's zoning

Before investing any time or resources into backyard bee keeping, make sure you familiarize yourself with the District of Mackenzie Zoning Bylaw No. 1368. This bylaw regulates where in the townsite beekeeping is permitted. Your property may or may not be suitable to participate in beekeeping. For assistance in verifying your zoning, please contact the District office.

### 2. Complete the backyard beekeeping checklist and understand District backyard beekeeping requirements

Once you confirm that your property is permitted to have backyard beekeeping, you should familiarize yourself with the District's regulations and requirements. Complete the Backyard Beekeeping Checklist and review the District's Zoning and Animal Control and Licensing Bylaws to understand the District's requirements in relation to backyard beekeeping. For any questions in relation to the requirements, please contact the District office.

### 3. Familiarize yourself with beekeeping and health

There are many resources available to educate residents on proper and safe bee keeping. The District **strongly** recommends completing a beekeeping course from a certified bee instructor or organization. This is to ensure that your beekeeping is conducted in a safe manner and to protect your investment in a bee colony.

The following are websites and contact information for organizations and clubs that offer or can direct you to beekeeping courses: **(Some contact information may change over time)**

British Columbia Honey Producers Association - <http://bcbeekeepers.com/>

Quesnel Beekeepers - [jcameron@quesnelbc.com](mailto:jcameron@quesnelbc.com)

Central Cariboo Beekeepers Association

<https://www.facebook.com/CentralCaribooBeekeepersAssociation/>

John Hoyrup President, CCBA

Tel: 250-296-3588 (150 Mile) [hilltop4@telus.net](mailto:hilltop4@telus.net)

Urban Bee Network - <http://www.urbanbeenetwork.ca/>

Once you are familiarized with District zoning, regulations and bee keeping practices, you may proceed to the application stage:

#### **4. Complete and submit our Backyard Beekeeping Application**

Complete the Backyard Beekeeping Permit Application form and checklist and submit them to the Animal Control & Bylaw Services with the required permit fee of \$25. You must receive your permit prior to keeping bees on your property.

#### **5. Get your inspection from a District staff member**

Once your permit application and fee has been submitted to and preliminarily approved by the District office, a District staff member will come to inspect your property. Your hive(s), fencing, water source and other requirements must all be in place prior to inspection. If all requirements are satisfied, the District will issue your permit, in effect allowing to you keep bees on your property. If your property is permitted for backyard beekeeping but you fail to meet other requirements (i.e. hive location or fencing), you may reapply for a permit, including providing an additional permit fee.