

Eastern Canada has about 400 wild bee species!

Most of our native bees do not have common names and live and forage unnoticed in gardens and fields. They are efficient pollinators for all our native wildflowers.

Im a bumblebee, big and fussy. My hairy body really helps with pollen transfer between flowers! Colour me in with yellow.



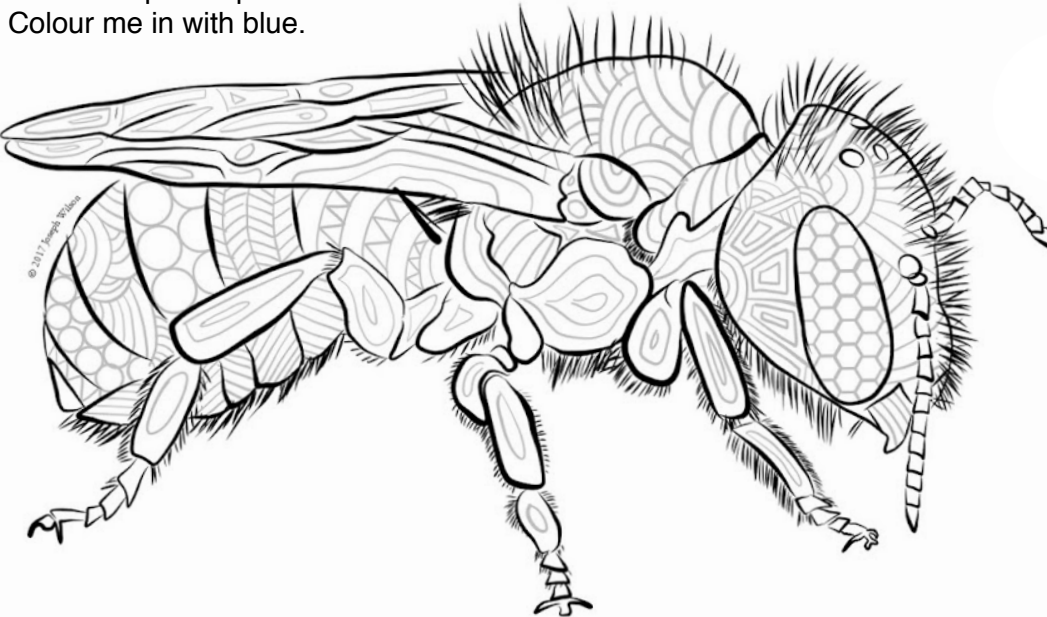
Im a sweat bee, easily identified by my metallic green body.



Im a mason bee, also called the blue orchard bee because I am an expert at pollination fruit trees! Colour me in with blue.



Bumblebees and sweat bees are effective pollinator of cranberry plants.



The honey bees we know are relatively new to Ontario and were imported for agricultural use (honey production and crop pollination). Before honey bees came to North America, Ontario's major pollinators were native bees, who evolved with pollinating our native plants. Honey bees do not actually know how to pollinate tomato or eggplant and do a poor job with many native plants including blueberry, cranberry, cherry and pumpkin. Our native bees are essential!