

BEES

On 1 May 2018, Canada Post issued a booklet of ten stamps depicting somewhat stylized images of bees. The stamps are denominated at the “Permanent” domestic rate, which at the time of issue is 85 cents. The stamps measure 31 mm × 31 mm.

Canadian Bank Note printed the stamps using four-color lithography and produced 140,000 booklets. The designer was Andrew Perro and the illustrator was Dave Murray.



According to the press release from Canada Post, experts believe there are approximately 4,000 species of bees native to North America. The stamps show two of the more than 850 species native to Canada.

The Rusty-patched Bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*), once common in parts of Ontario and Quebec, was the first bee species to be listed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

The Bicolored Striped Sweat Bee (*Agapostemon virescens*), one of many sweat bee species, digs its nest in the ground and can be found throughout southern Ontario.

The Official First Day Cover features another Canadian native—a Small Eastern Resin Bee (*Anthidiellum notatum*), which constructs a unique nest from resin and gravel.

