

Action Closed: Bill C-474

Author: Lucy

Sharratt<info@cban.ca><aname="eztoc4434_1" id="eztoc4434_1"><h2>This Action is Now Closed: Bill C-

474 was defeated Feb. 9, 2011</h2><aname="eztoc4434_2" id="eztoc4434_2"><h2>But a real debate on GM has now begun! Thank you for your action!</h2><p>The year-long debate and pressure to support Bill C-

474 resulted in increased pressure to stop GM alfalfa. Tens of thousands of Canadians sent letters to their MPs, met with their MPs and sent petitions. While the Bill itself did not pass, everyone's actions led to a motion for a moratorium on GM alfalfa that almost passed in May before the elections shut down debate. <a href="/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-Not-on-the-

Market/Alfalfa" target="_self">Click here to take action to stop GM alfalfa.</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><aname="eztoc4434_3" id="eztoc4434_3"><

h2>Bill C-474 Voter results:</h2><p>List of MPs who voted YES to Bill C-474</p><p><a href="/Take-Action/Action-Closed-Bill-C-474/MPs-who-voted-no-to-Bill-C-

474" target="_self">List of MPs who voted NO to Bill C-474</p><div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-image"><p></p></div><div class="attribute-caption" style="width:200px"><p>Farmers First! Vote for Bill C-

474! The day of the rally was also the day of the final vote on Bill C-474 which would have required a assessment of export market harm before a GE seed is sold.</p></div></div></div></div><aname="eztoc4434_4" id="eztoc4434_4"><h2>History on Bill C-

474</h2><p>Bill C-474 would have supported Canadian farmers by requiring that an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted before the sale of any new genetically engineered seed is permitted. ?</p><p>This Bill was a critical opportunity to stop dangerous GE crops.</p><p>Bill C-

474 began a real debate over the impacts of GE crops. If the Bill was passed it would have stopped GE wheat and GE alfalfa.</p><p>The Bill was introduced by Alex Atamanenko, the NDP Agriculture Critic and MP for British Columbia Southern Interior.</p><p>Press Release, February 9, 2011:<a href="/Press/Press-Releases/Liberals-and-Conservatives-Vote-Down-Bill-C-

474" target="_self">Liberals and Conservatives Vote Down Bill C-474: In action on genetic engineering will cost farmers, groups vow to protect alfalfa in ongoing controversy</p><p>Missing in Action, February 9, 2011: Many members of the Agriculture Committee including Liberal Agriculture Critic Wayne Easter are missing from the House of Commons this week. They will miss tonight's vote on Bill C-

474 because they are touring universities to find out how they can support the industry: ? That the Standing Committee on Agriculture & Agri-

food conducted a study on the status of the Canadian biotechnology sector, in which it travels to the universities across Canada where this technology is primarily being undertaken, and that it recommends, where necessary, legislative, policy and regulatory changes in order to foster an innovative and fertile biotechnology industry in Canada. "Today, the day of the final vote, the MPs will be in Guelph listening to the President of Monsanto Canada and touring the University.</p><aname="eztoc4435_1" id="eztoc4435_1"><h2>What do farmers think about Bill C-474?</h2>My future and Bill C-474-

Letter to MPs from Yukon farmer Tom Rudge, Feb 5, 2011.Letter from Marc Loiselle, Saskatchewan farmer, to his MP, Feb 6, 2011.Quotes from the testimony of Manitoba alfalfa growers and associations at the Agriculture Committee hearings on Bill C-474, June 7 2010.<a href="/Press/Press-

Releases/Liberals-and-Conservatives-Vote-Down-Bill-C-474" target="_self">Liberals and Conservatives Vote Down Bill C-474: In action on genetic engineering will cost farmers, groups vow to protect alfalfa in ongoing controversy</p><p>Missing in Action, February 9, 2011: Many members of the Agriculture Committee including Liberal Agriculture Critic Wayne Easter are missing from the House of Commons this week. They will miss tonight's vote on Bill C-

474 because they are touring universities to find out how they can support the industry: ? That the Standing Committee on Agriculture & Agri-

food conducted a study on the status of the Canadian biotechnology sector, in which it travels to the universities across Canada where this technology is primarily being undertaken, and that it recommends, where necessary, legislative, policy and regulatory changes in order to foster an innovative and fertile biotechnology industry in Canada. "Today, the day of the final vote, the MPs will be in Guelph listening to the President of Monsanto Canada and touring the University.</p><aname="eztoc4435_1" id="eztoc4435_1"><h2>What do farmers think about Bill C-474?</h2>My future and Bill C-474-

Letter to MPs from Yukon farmer Tom Rudge, Feb 5, 2011.Letter from Marc Loiselle, Saskatchewan farmer, to his MP, Feb 6, 2011.Quotes from the testimony of Manitoba alfalfa growers and associations at the Agriculture Committee hearings on Bill C-474, June 7 2010.<a href="/Press/Press-

Releases/Liberals-and-Conservatives-Vote-Down-Bill-C-474" target="_self">Liberals and Conservatives Vote Down Bill C-474: In action on genetic engineering will cost farmers, groups vow to protect alfalfa in ongoing controversy</p><p>Missing in Action, February 9, 2011: Many members of the Agriculture Committee including Liberal Agriculture Critic Wayne Easter are missing from the House of Commons this week. They will miss tonight's vote on Bill C-

474 because they are touring universities to find out how they can support the industry: ? That the Standing Committee on Agriculture & Agri-

food conducted a study on the status of the Canadian biotechnology sector, in which it travels to the universities across Canada where this technology is primarily being undertaken, and that it recommends, where necessary, legislative, policy and regulatory changes in order to foster an innovative and fertile biotechnology industry in Canada. "Today, the day of the final vote, the MPs will be in Guelph listening to the President of Monsanto Canada and touring the University.</p><aname="eztoc4435_1" id="eztoc4435_1"><h2>What do farmers think about Bill C-474?</h2>My future and Bill C-474-

Letter to MPs from Yukon farmer Tom Rudge, Feb 5, 2011.Letter from Marc Loiselle, Saskatchewan farmer, to his MP, Feb 6, 2011.Quotes from the testimony of Manitoba alfalfa growers and associations at the Agriculture Committee hearings on Bill C-474, June 7 2010.<a href="/Press/Press-

Releases/Farmers-Speak-Out-at-University-of-Guelph-Forum-Facing-the-Negative-Impacts-of-Genetic-

Engineering"target="_self">FarmersSpeakoutatGuelphForum:FacingtheNegativeImpactsofGenetic Engineering,PressRelease,February7,2011.<divclass="object-

left"><divclass="content-view-embeddedmedia"><divclass="class-image"><divclass="attribute-image"><p><imgsrc="/var/cban/storage/images/media/images/gm-alfalfa-tiny-seed-big-problem/4899-1-eng-CA/GM-Alfalfa-Tiny-Seed-Big-

Problem_medium.jpg"width="200"height="146"style="border:0px;"alt="GMAlfalfaTinySeedBigProb lem"title="GMAlfalfaTinySeedBigProblem"/></p></div></div></div><aname="eztoc443

5_2" id="eztoc4435_2"><h2>MoreInformation</h2>CBAN Briefing to Members of Parliam ent.<a href="http://www.cban.ca/Resources/Tools/Briefing-Notes/Briefing-to-Members-of-

Parliament"target="_self">Genetically Engineered Organisms: The Need to Support Bill C-474 & Know the Economic Risk to Export Markets February 2011.New Article!<a href="h

ttp://www.commonground.ca/iss/234/cg234_billC474.shtml"target="_self">AwinforBillC-474, Common Ground Magazine, by Lucy Sharratt, CBAN Coordinator, January 2011.Septe

mber 2010:BillC-

474: Concrete change to challenge Monsanto's GM crops.<p>More info and analysis below

...</p><divclass="object-right"><divclass="content-view-embeddedmedia"><divclass="class-image"><divclass="attribute-

image"><p><imgsrc="/var/cban/storage/images/media/images/press-conf-photo/4762-1-eng-CA/Press-Conf-

photo_medium.jpg"width="200"height="134"style="border:0px;"alt="PressConfphoto"title="PressC onfphoto"/></p></div><divclass="attribute-

caption"style="width:200px"><p>CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt speaks at a Press Conference on Parl iament Hill with Maureen Bostock from the National Farmers Union and NDP MPs Alex Atamanenko and Ma

lcolm Allen</p></div></div></div></div><aname="eztoc4435_3" id="eztoc4435_3"><h2>Updat es</h2><p>Victory for Democracy in Canada on Genetic Engineering! December 2, 2010: Your actions ar

eworking! Despite biotech industry attempt to shut down debate, last night in the House of Commons, the N ew Democratic Party secured a new 5-hour debate on Bill C-

474 and the impacts of genetic engineering for Feb 8 2011. This type of debate on genetic engineering in the H ouse of Commons has never happened before! Now every MP will have a chance to participate in the debate

on Bill C-474.<a href="/Take-Action/Support-Bill-C-

474"target="_self">Write your MP today and ask them to represent your concerns in the debate.</p><p>Thank you to everyone who continues to take action. Your voice is being heard! Approximately 1500 peop

le have written to their MPs and another 6000 signatures on petitions have been collected. Hundreds of peop

le have sent replies from their MPs to CBAN- thank you for your patience in waiting for CBAN to respond to your questions. Bill C-

474 is concrete action and a unique chance to bring genetic engineering and the concerns of farmers into the spotlight.Nov 7, Kelowna BC:150 people rally in favour of Bill C-

474.</p><p>Hearings Cancelled Oct 27: The motion to extend hearings on Bill C-

474 was defeated in the House of Commons thanks to Liberal inaction. The motion was defeated 134 yea, 13

9 nay because many Liberals were not in the House to vote, including Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff! The C onservatives voted to end the debate over Bill C-

474 to protect the biotech industry and the Liberals let this happen.<a href="/Take-Action/Action-Closed-Bill-C-474/MPs-Missing-in-Action-Oct-27th-vote-to-extend-Bill-C-474-

hearings"target="_self">Click here to see how your MP voted on October 27-

Did they vote for the extension?</p><p><a href="/Take-Action/Action-Closed-Bill-C-474/MPs-Missing-in-Action-Oct-27th-vote-to-extend-Bill-C-474-

hearings"target="_self">This is the list of MPs who were missing from the vote!</p><p>The Liberals h ave indicated they will not support Bill C-

474! Now that the debate has been cut short, it will be easier for the Liberal Party to find a way to justify their posi tion against Bill C-474. The Liberals and Conservatives are now working together to stop Bill C-

474. Liberals and Conservatives jointly introduced a motion in the Agriculture Committee to start a new pro- biotech study: ?*That the Standing Committee on Agriculture & Agri-*

food conduct a study on the status of the Canadian biotechnology sector, in which it travel to the universities across Canada where this technology is primarily being undertaken, and that it recommend, where necessary, legislative, policy and regulatory changes in order to foster an innovative and fertile biotechnology industry in Canada.

[Tell the Liberalists to support Bill C-474.](#)

Even More Information

474 is the first step in offering some protection in the future for Canadian family farms. Market acceptance must be made part of the evaluation process and incorporated into the Seeds Regulation Act.

- Kelvin Einerson, Director and Secretary Treasurer, Manitoba Forage Seed Association Inc.

[Click here for Bill C-474 official text.](#)

[Click here to read more quotes from the alfalfa producers about why they need Bill C-474.](#)

[Click here to read more quotes from the alfalfa producers about why they need Bill C-474.](#)

[Click here for Bill C-474 official text.](#)

[Click here to listen to how your actions changed the debate!](#)

[MPs listen to Canadians ahead of industry on GM Crops.](#)

[Passage of C-474 Important Victory for Farmers.](#)

[Listen: great radio show about Bill C-474 from Deconstructing Dinner!](#)

[What are MPs saying about the Bill? Why is the Bill important?](#)

[The April 1 debate in Parliament! - official transcript.](#)

[CBAN's unofficial quick notes from the April 1 debate.](#)

[Official debate transcript from March 17.](#)

Some Liberal MPs were still repeating the wrong information that GE? Triffid? flax was never commercially approved in Canada. This is wrong. Triffid was approved for commercialization via variety registration in 1996, making these seeds legal to sell in Canada. Variety registration remained until April 1, 2001 when it was removed at the behest of flax farmers. Industry is trying to undermine the arguments for Bill C-474.

[Click here for more info on Triffid flax including info that corrects your Liberal MP.](#)

March 16: The National Farmers Union urges Parliamentarians and all Canadians to support Bill C-474.

Press Release - March 16, 2010: [GE Crops: Parliament to debate the need for export market acceptance before commercial release.](#)

[Comments from March 16 Press Conference, NFU and CBAN.](#)

This Bill is really important because, as we know from experience, the introduction of new genetically engineered (GE) crops can cause economic hardship to farmers. Farmers are at risk when GE crops are commercialized in Canada without also being first approved in our major export markets. Flax farmers in Canada are now paying a heavy price because of this exact problem. Late last year, Canadian flax exports were

ediscoveredcontaminatedwithaGEflaxthat isnotapprovedinEuropeorinanyofourotherexportmarkets(excepttheU.S.).FlaxfarmersactuallyforesawthatGEcontaminationoreventhethreatofcontaminationwouldclosetheirexportmarkets.That'swhytheytookstepsin2001toremoveGEflaxfromthemarket.Despitethismeasure,flaxfarmerswerenotprotected.TheGEflaxcontaminationclosedourexportmarketsin2009.It hascreatedmarketuncertaintyanddepressedprices.Farmersarealsopayingfortestingandcleanupandmayberequiredtoabandontheirownfarm-savedflaxseedandbuycertifiedseedinstead.Thesecostsareanunnecessaryandpreventableburden.Clickhereformoreinformationonthe flaxcontaminationcrisis.</p><p>Wecannotallowourexportmarketstocloselikethisagain.</p><p>Itisthegovernment'sresponsibilitytoprotectCanadianfarmersfrompredictableproblemscausedbytheintroductionofnewGECropsthathavenotyetbeenregulatedinourexportmarkets.</p><divclass="object-right"><divclass="content-view-embeddedmedia"><divclass="class-image"><divclass="attribute-image"><p><imgsrc="/var/cban/storage/images/donate2/blue-donate-button/3482-1-eng-CA/Blue-Donate-Button_medium.jpg"width="110"height="81"style="border:0px;"alt="BlueDonateButton"title="BlueDonateButton"/></p></div></div></div></div><p>Contactusformoreaction,informationandyourquestions.</p><h2>Youractionshavealready madeadifference!MPsvotedforBillC-474inApril!</h2><p>ClickheretofindouthowyourMPvotedonApril14!MPsvotedyestosendtheBillforstudyattheAgricultureCommittee.Writetosaythanksoorexpressyourdispleasure.LetyourMPknowthatyouarewatching!ThebiotechindustrydoubledtheirlobbyingagainstBillC-474andtheindustryassociationCropLifewassoworriedthattheycopiedCBAN'sMPaction.Butthankstoyouraction,MPslistenedtoyouinsteadofthebiotechindustry!Monsantoisnowcampaigninghardagainsth eBill.</p>