

2011

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CANADIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY ACTION NETWORK

ACT FOR THE EARTH (TORONTO), BIOFREEDOM (EDMONTON),
CANADIAN ORGANIC GROWERS, CHECK YOUR HEAD,
COUNCIL OF CANADIANS, ECOLOGICAL FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO,
FOOD ACTION COMMITTEE AND MARINE ISSUES COMMITTEE OF
ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE, HALIFAX, GE FREE YUKON,
GENEACTON (TORONTO), GREENPEACE CANADA, INTER PARES,
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION, P.E.I. COALITION FOR A GMO-FREE PROVINCE,
SASKATCHEWAN ORGANIC DIRECTORATE, SOCIETY FOR A
G.E. FREE B.C., UNION PAYSANNE, USC CANADA

COLLABORATIVE CAMPAIGNING FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

www.cban.ca



Suite 206, 180 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2P 1P5
Tel: 613 241 2267 ext.25 | Fax: 613 241 2506 | E-mail: coordinator@cban.ca

Your Voice in Action!

In 2011, CBAN turned 5 years old - but we were too busy to throw a party! Our research and campaigning has increased the profile of the issue of genetic engineering in Canada. In 2011, we saw many important results from the groundwork we have laid and momentum we have built in our critical campaigns over the past 5 years. More people and communities are turning to CBAN for the latest updates, most accurate information, and most strategic campaign actions.

I. Public Education and Awareness

In 2011, CBAN focused on public education. We organized two major awareness-raising tours in BC and Atlantic Canada, and provided important public education materials:

- » 13-Stop BC Events Tour!: CBAN organized a public education events tour of BC with our Member Group The Society for a GE Free BC and local partners. The tour called “Genetic Modification and the Future of Food” featured CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt, April Reeves from GE Free BC and local speakers. We organized 13 events in 12 communities! - Kelowna, Nelson, Grand Forks, Osoyoos, Keremeos, Princeton, Langley, Vancouver, Bella Coola, Richmond, Comox, and Campbell River!
- » Events across Atlantic Canada: We organized events in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island. See the GM Atlantic Salmon campaign report on page X for details!
- » “Why Your Food Choices Matter”: CBAN launched the BC version of Why Your Food Choices Matter – 4000 copies were distributed at events and through health food stores. Local groups such as the Council of Canadians Vancouver helped with distribution.
- » “CBAN’s Quick Guide to GM Foods”: CBAN produced an easy-to-photocopy pamphlet with basic information on GM.
- » CBAN contributed to The Peoples Food Policy, an unprecedented grassroots initiative launched in 2011. The Policy was developed with input from 3500 Canadians and concludes that “existing GM crops should be phased out and there should be no further approvals of GM crops and animals.”



The 13-stop events tour of BC involved too many people and groups to mention here but a particularly big thanks goes to April Reeves of GE Free BC who spoke at events and also drove through the mountains to get us there! Pictured here is amazing musician Shane Philip (www.shanephilip.com) who generously gave his time and talent for a dance benefit for CBAN after Lucy's talk in Courtenay - demonstrating that fighting corporate control can be fun! NDP MP Alex Atamaneko introduced panel discussions in his riding. Details of these pictures can be found at www.cban.ca/content/view/full/1094

II. Campaigning and Research and Monitoring

Bill C-474

CBAN continued to support Bill C-474 in 2011. The Bill would have required an analysis of export market harm before any GM seed is introduced. CBAN ensured a high public and media profile to the debate over the Bill. The public and Parliamentary debate was a great platform to stress the problem of GM contamination and the contamination risk of GM alfalfa in particular. It also made clear that farmers voices and economic concerns are not considered in decisions to approve GM crops.

Many CBAN Members and allies who testified at the House of Commons Agriculture Committee also benefited from CBAN's moral and technical support in 2011.

In early February, we tied the issue of the GM pig called "Enviropig" (developed at the University of Guelph) to the Bill when Members of the House of Commons Agriculture Committee visited Guelph. CBAN helped organize a public forum and supported a rally organized by students and farmers.

RESULT

Bill C-474 was ultimately defeated but the debate raised the political, public and media profile of opposition to GM and GM alfalfa. The debate over the Bill led to a Liberal Party motion for a moratorium on GM alfalfa!



No To GM Alfalfa

GM Alfalfa is a major threat to the future of family farming and organic food. Alfalfa is often in pasture and hay for dairy cows and livestock and is used to build up nutrients in the soil, making it particularly important for organic farmers. Because alfalfa is a perennial crop pollinated by bees, widespread contamination from GM

alfalfa is inevitable. The introduction of Monsanto's GM herbicide tolerant alfalfa will have serious negative impacts on many different types of farmers, both conventional and organic.

In 2011, CBAN prepared a strong platform for the second stage of the campaign:

- » CBAN worked to foster a campaign environment that supports the participation of conventional farmers.
- » CBAN provided information to organic sector groups and supported their participation in the campaign, including coordinating national strategy calls.
- » CBAN prepared a number of activities for implementation in 2012, including a short animated video for consumer education.

RESULT

The Liberal Party proposed a motion for a moratorium on GM alfalfa that was supported by the NDP (Conservative MPs delayed a vote such that the motion was not voted on before the federal election). The campaign is now high on the agenda of organic sector groups.

GM Fish

The small U.S company AquaBounty wants approval to produce GM Atlantic salmon eggs in Prince Edward Island (for shipping to Panama to grow out).

CBAN organized four public forums in Atlantic Canada with Sierra Club Atlantic Canada and local groups in Nova Scotia (Ecology Action Centre, NS Public Interest Research Group), New Brunswick (Conservation Council of New Brunswick, Fundy Baykeeper), Newfoundland and Labrador (Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Network, St John's Council of Canadians), and Prince Edward Island (PEI Health Coalition, Council of Canadians PEI, Earth Action PEI).



The events featured (from left to right in the below top left photo) Leo Broderick from the PEI Council of Canadians, Eric Hoffman from Friends of the Earth U.S., CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt, and Jaydee Hanson from the Centre for Food Safety U.S. Local hosts also joined the panels in each community.

RESULT

CBAN generated important local, national and international media attention that helped delay approval in the U.S. We also raised public awareness, particularly in Atlantic Canada where the future of the GM salmon could be decided. CBAN also established great new working relationships with groups in Atlantic Canada and the U.S.



We held a press conference outside the AquaBounty research facility right at Bay Fortune in PEI. Also pictured here is our event at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax, and Leo Broderick with the Premier of PEI!

Sweetcorn

In 2011 CBAN issued its first "Consumer Advisory", to alert consumers about the possibility of GM sweet corn in grocery stores and farmers markets, and provide details so consumers could investigate for themselves. CBAN conducted this research with the Ecological Farmers of Ontario.



RESULT

CBAN provided unique information to consumers.

Agrofuels

CBAN is still a major resource on the agrofuels issue. CBAN was asked to write an article for the Costco magazine which is mailed to over a million businesses, customers and employees across Canada. CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt also spoke at a Café Scientifique event called "Biofuels: Are We Saving or Starving the World?" in Ottawa organized by the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

RESULT

CBAN continues to provide a critique of agrofuels and GM crops, where few or no other groups can.

Stop “Enviropig”

CBAN focused campaign attention on the University of Guelph and the hog producers’ association called Ontario Pork. CBAN coordinated with students and farmers to critique Enviropig and CBAN challenged the university and Ontario Pork to their first-ever public debates. CBAN also organized some highly visible grassroots actions that resulted in national media attention including two high profile pieces in *The Globe and Mail*.



- » CBAN organized a public forum at the University of Guelph on Bill C-474, Enviropig and GM Alfalfa, with organic groups and students.
- » We also supported a protest organized by students and hog farmers at the university, pictured below. The visuals from the protest were published in

media across North America and were instrumental in the grassroots pressure campaign.

- » CBAN Member Canadian Organic Growers Toronto organized a panel on Enviropig as part of their annual conference. The panel featured CBAN, Ontario Pork and the University of Guelph and was the first time that Ontario Pork debated the issue in public.
- » CBAN launched a national petition to the university to stop the GM pig.
- » CBAN continued public outreach and education.

RESULT

CBAN secured a letter of opposition to Enviropig from Olymel, the largest pork processing company in Canada. CBAN generated media attention to the GM pig and created significant public pressure on the University of Guelph and Ontario Pork.

AS OF APRIL 2012, CBAN STOPPED ENVIROPIG!



A cold February day can't stop Canadians! The banner pictured here is a spoof on the official slogan “University of Guelph: Changing Lives, Improving Life.” The Big Carrot in Toronto hired a bus to help urban consumers join farmers and students at the protest!

Protecting Organics

CBAN supported the launch of a U.S. legal case representing U.S. and Canadian farmers and organic organizations, as a preemptive action to halt the ability of Monsanto to sue farmers over GM alfalfa contamination. CBAN Members the Canadian Organic Growers and Union Paysanne are party to the lawsuit.

RESULT

Thanks to CBAN's support, the launch resulted in more initial media coverage in Canada than in the U.S., including in CBC and the Manitoba Cooperator.

Rapid Response

CBAN was the first group to understand the government's new proposals to establish Low Level Presence (LLP) which would allow a level of contamination from GM foods not approved by Health Canada. CBAN alerted groups to government consultations and coordinated a response with organic organizations. CBAN launched a public campaign against LLP and provided background analysis to groups.

RESULT

CBAN's strong critique and public action appeals have stalled progress to change regulations to allow for Low Level Presence.

III. Media

CBAN generated a great deal of media attention in 2011 including a lot of important local stories thanks to our speakers tours of BC and Atlantic Canada.

We also provided media backgrounders on the issues of Low Level Presence, GM Atlantic Salmon, GM Foods, Bill C-474 and SmartStax corn so that reporters had easy access to detailed information.

Press Releases 2011

February 7: Farmers Speak Out at University of Guelph Forum: Facing the Negative Impacts of Genetic Engineering.

February 9: Final Vote on Bill C-474: Which MPs will put farmers first in the flight over genetic engineering?

February 9: Rally to Stop University of Guelph's Genetically Modified Pig: Students, Farmers and Consumers Join Together.

February 10: Liberals and Conservatives Vote Down Bill C-474: Inaction on genetic engineering will cost farmers, groups vow to protect alfalfa in ongoing controversy.

March 3: Parliament Under Pressure to Stop Genetically Modified Fish: Motion in the House of Commons requests transparency.

March 4: Moratorium on Genetically Modified Alfalfa Proposed: Liberals Step Up to Protect Farmers.

March 11: Conservatives Block Vote on Moratorium on GM Alfalfa: Motion Stalled in Agriculture Committee.

March 30: Farmers and Seed Distributors Sue Monsanto to Protect Themselves from Patents on Genetically Modified Seed.

April 7: Canada's National Research Council Disavows GM Wheat.

June 28: Report Exposes Unstudied Risks of Monsanto's Genetically Modified "SmartStax" Corn: EU Member State critiques and leaked industry documents uncover safety questions.

June 29: Nova Scotia Should Steer Clear of Genetic Modification, groups warn as Premier returns from global biotech industry conference.

July 13: US Opens Canada to GM Grass Contamination: US Department of Agriculture will not regulate genetically modified bluegrass, decision could be applied to future GM crops.

September 12: Groups to Host 12 Public Events in BC on Genetically Modified Foods: Public forums to highlight risks of GM crops and animals.

October 11: U.S. Rubber-Stamp of GM Fish Imminent? U.S. approval would trigger corporate plans to produce genetically modified salmon eggs in Canada, but Environment Canada remains silent.

October 17: Critics of Genetically Modified Animals Barred from Summit on the Future of Animal Agriculture.

October 18: Genetically Modified Atlantic Salmon: Atlantic Canada is at the centre of the global controversy over GM fish. October 24-27, Charlottetown, Fredericton, Halifax, St. John's.

October 19: Islanders Hold the Future of Wild Atlantic Salmon in their Hands: U.S and Canadian panel to present on the risks of genetically modified fish in Charlottetown.

November 29: Federal Government Proposes to Side-Step Health Canada's Regulation of Genetically Modified Foods: Trade policy would sacrifice safety, say groups.

IV. Thank You

Thank you to our funders in 2011

The Big Carrot Natural Market, Toronto

Inter Pares

Patagonia Inc.

Ontario Natural Food Co-op

Saskatchewan Organic Directorate, Organic Agriculture Protection Fund

Thank you to the Kootenay CO-op in BC: On September 20th 1% of all purchases at the Co-op went to CBAN!

Thank you to our Supporters

ETC Group

Thank you to all the individuals who donated to support our work!

Some feedback from the public in 2011

“ I just wanted to take the time to say Thank You. I look forward to reading your emails, finding them concise and informative...Thank You for steering us in an informed, educated direction. ”

“ This is a good newsletter. So much is happening I don't dare miss one of your newsletters! ”

“ Your GM Flyer is excellent... I'm forwarding it to our Booth people...You're doing great work! Thanks. ”

“ It is amazing the difference that CBAN makes, and its pretty clear that you are the driving force for much of the positive advancement that has been made on the GMO issue lately. Many and sincere thanks!! ”

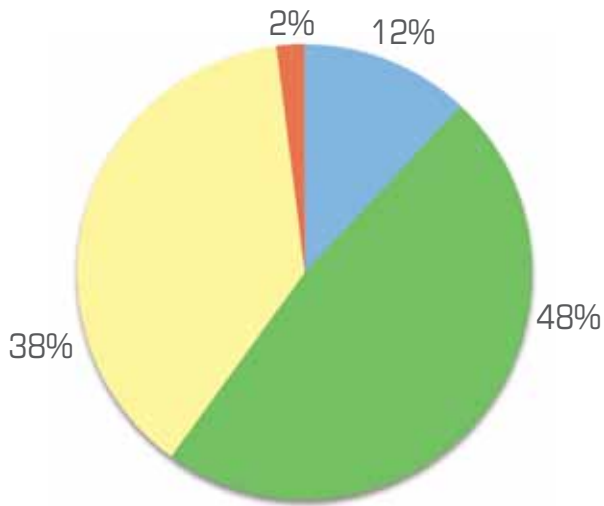
“ Thanks for keeping on plugging away at this and giving us such convenient tools to make our views known! ”

“ Thank you CBAN for making it easy to send these letters. ”

“ Thanks for making it so easy for me to share my views during busy days and night of family life and work. Because of your user-friendly website I have been able to do more to voice my input and views with our governors. I particularly appreciate the bee cartoon and how you able to lighten up these serious seed and food concern topics. Thank you. ”

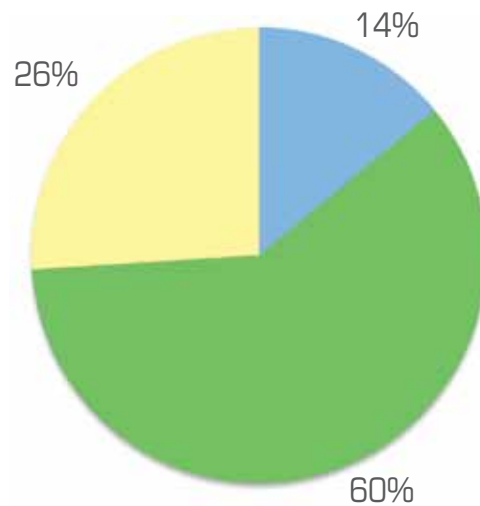
V. Finances

2011 CBAN Incoming \$95,514



Member Groups
Grants
Individuals
Other

2011 CBAN Expenses \$82,810



Overhead
Staffing
Program and Campaign Costs

GM CROPS GROWN IN CANADA

CROP	TRAIT	WHERE ON THE SHELVES
1 CORN	Insect resistant, herbicide tolerant	Corn flakes • Corn chips • Cornstarch • Corn syrup • Corn oil and other corn ingredients in processed foods • Sweeteners like glucose and fructose • Eggs, milk and meat • Some sweetcorn
2 CANOLA	Herbicide tolerant	Canola oil • Eggs, milk and meat
3 SOY	Herbicide tolerant	Soy oil • Soy protein • Soy lecithin • Tofu • Soy beverages • Soy puddings • Eggs, milk and meat
4 SUGAR BEET	Herbicide tolerant	Sugar

GM FOODS IMPORTED TO CANADA

FOOD	GROWN	WHERE ON THE SHELVES
5 COTTON-SEED OIL	U.S.	Cottonseed oil • Vegetable oil in processed foods such as potato chips
6 PAPAYA	U.S. (Hawaii)	Papaya in fruit juices and other processed foods
7 SQUASH	U.S.	Some zucchini • Yellow crookneck and straightneck squash
8 MILK PRODUCTS (BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE)	U.S.	Milk solids and powder • Frozen desserts with dairy • Imported mixed drinks with milk ingredients

www.cban.ca/gmfoods

Order your info postcards today! coordinator@cban.ca