

Le lin

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Sharratt<info@cban.ca><aname="eztoc5304_1" id="eztoc5304_1"><h2>Retenons la leçon de la contamination du lin et appuyons la loi C-474!</h2><p>Agir pour soutenir la loi C-

474:écrivez un courriel instantané à votre député fédéral</p>

<div class="object-right"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-

image"><div class="attribute-image"><p><a href="/Passez-a-l-action/Appuyons-le-C-

474" target="_self"></p></div></div></div><p></p><aname="eztoc5304_2" id="eztoc

5304_2"><h2>Nouvelle importante: les parlementaires libéraux désinforment</h2><p>Certains

parlementaires libéraux continuent de répéter: l'information erronée que le lin transgénique de la variété

é « Triffid » n'a jamais été approuvé à la commercialisation au Canada. Ceci est faux. Or, l'information co-

rrecte est vitale pour appréhender pleinement les enjeux autour du projet de loi C-

474. Cette dernière est expliquée ci-dessous, ou bien <a href="/Ressources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-

Foods-Not-on-the-Market/Le-lin/Liberal-Confusion-Persists-on-GM-

Flax2" target="_self"> dans l'article

suivant du CBAN (en anglais).</p><p></p><p></p><p></p><a href="/Passez-a-l-action/Passez-a-l-

action/Dites-aux-libéraux-d-appuyer-le-projet-de-loi-C-

474." target="_self"> Vous pouvez aussi écrire au chef du parti Libéral en cliquant ici!</p><p>L'orga-

nisme européen de système d'alerte alimentaire (Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed) a confirmé la con-

tamination des exportations canadiennes de lin avec une variété de lin génétiquement modifié (GM) qui

était illégal à la vente au Canada depuis 2001, année à laquelle les liniculteurs avaient été obligés de

ment à retirer le produit du marché. Cette contamination a été confirmée dans les exportations de céréa-

les, des produits de boulangerie contenant des noix, ainsi que des plats cuisinés.</p><p>Celin GM n'a

amais été approuvé à la consommation humaine dans les 35 pays où la contamination a été relev

ée. En septembre-

octobre 2009, ces derniers ont fermé leurs marchés au lin canadien. Le Canada s'est vu fermer la porte de

l'Autriche, la Belgique, la Croatie, Chypre, la République tchèque, le Danemark, l'Égypte, l'Estonie, la Fi-

lande, la France, l'Allemagne, la Grèce, la Hongrie, l'Islande, l'Irlande, l'Italie, la Lettonie, le Luxembour-

g, la Hollande, la Norvège, la Pologne, le Portugal, la Corée, la Roumanie, Singapour, la Slovaquie, la Slov-

énie, l'Espagne, le Sri Lanka, la Suède, la Suisse, la Thaïlande, le Royaume-

Uni et le Japon.</p><p></p><aname="eztoc5304_3" id="eztoc5304_3"><h2>Summary</h2><p>

> GM flax seed is not legal to sell in Canada. The GM flax was approved by the Canadian government in 1996/

1998 but the Flax Council of Canada and the Sask-

atchewan Flax Development Commission convinced the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to remove vari-

ety registration for the GM flax in 2001, making it illegal to sell these seeds. Flax growers took this measure to pro-

tect their European markets. (around 60% of Canada's flax exports go to Europe.)</p><div class="object-

left"><div class="content-view-embedded-media"><div class="class-image"><div class="attribute-

image"><p></p></div></div></div></div><aname="eztoc5304_4" id="eztoc5304_4"><h2>Background:</

h2><p>AGM flax (tolerant to herbicide residues in soil) was developed by controversial scientist and indust-

ry proponent Alan Mc

Hughen when he worked for the Crop Development Centre (CDC) at the University of Saskatchewan.

McHughen called the GM flax, "CDC Tr

iffid" in reference to John Wyndham's 1951 horror novel, "The Day of the Triffids" w

hich feature terrifying fleshy plants farmed for oil. The flax was developed with public money through p-

rovincial government funding to the CDC. However, the CDC halted its GM research after the flax controver-

s y.</p><p>The "CDC Triffid" was approved by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspecti-

on Agency but was never commercially grown in Canada. In 2001 about 40 seed growers were multiplying 2

00,000 bushels of seed for future use but this was all crushed when the flax was taken off the market that year.

</p><p>Canada is the world's leader in the production and export of flax. Flax is one of Canada's five major c-

ash-

crops, alongside wheat, barley, oats and canola. Canada currently ships 60% of its flax exports to the EU, 30% to the United States, and 4% to Japan. Between 500,000-700,000 bushels go to Europe. Before the contamination scandal, cash bids for flax in Manitoba were 9.90-9.92 a bushel. But just based on rumour, before contamination was confirmed, flax bids in Manitoba were down to \$6.78 a bushel. This is a fall in price of 32% before the GM contamination was even confirmed.

Triffid Timeline

The CFIA has verified the below timetable that CBAN has constructed:

1996: GE? CDCTriffid? flax granted environmental release approval from Agriculture Canada (The CFIA was not yet formed).

1996: Triffid flax granted variety registration from Agriculture Canada, making it legal to sell these seeds.

1996: Triffid flax approved for animal health assessment and worker health and safety, handling? from Agriculture Canada.

1998: Health Canada approval for human consumption as food granted.

2001 (April 1): Triffid deregistered by the CFIA, making it illegal to sell these seeds in Canada.

GM Contamination Crisis Updates!

GE contamination is already costing the taxpayer. The fact that the Harper Government recently pledged up to \$1.9 million to help companies pay for testing flax seed is evidence that GE contamination can cost the Canadian government? and this is without the government compensating farmers for their testing costs or market loss. Contamination is inevitable and these costs will keep reoccurring.?

Lucy Sharratt, CBAN Coordinator, from March 16 Press Release [/Presse/Communiqués-de-presse/Les-cultures-transgéniques-le-Parlement-debattra-de-la-nécessité-d'une-analyse-de-risque-pour-les-marchés-d-exportation-avant-la-mise-en-marché](#) target="_self">Parliament to debate the need for export market acceptance before commercial release

March 4, 2010: Farms saved flax seed protected! Grain company Viterra and others want to force farmers wishing to grow flax in 2010 for Europe to abandon their farm-saved seed and purchase certified seed instead. The industry failed in this attempt. The reversal was announced by the Flax Council of Canada after it learned that that breeder seed samples from three more flax varieties (that makes five in total!) have tested positive for GE contamination! Farmers were very clear that they wanted to keep their saved seed. About 75% of Canada's flax farmers use farm-saved seed. **The best solution is to test the seed supply, both farm-saved seed and certified seed,** said National Farmers Union President and flax producer Terry Boehm. Buying certified seed would have added another cost to farmers who face lower prices and market uncertainty, and are already paying for testing and cleanup.

March 4, 2010: Bill C-474 would stop GE seeds from creating market chaos seen in the current flax contamination crisis. [/Passez-a-l-action/Passez-a-l-action](#) target="_self">Click here for information and to take action.

January 18, 2010: [/Ressources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-Not-on-the-Market/Le-lin/National-Farmers-Union-Press-Release](#) target="_self">Press Release, "Grain Companies Exploit Flax Situation to Tighten View on Farmer Seeds Saving" National Farmers Union.

November 18, 2009: 35 Countries hit by flax contamination as Japan finds contamination.

New! October 29, 2009- [/Ressources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-Not-on-the-Market/Le-lin/Flax-contamination-briefing-for-MPs-October-2009](#) target="_self">Flax contamination briefing for Members of Parliament.

October 5, 2009-Press Release: [/Presse/Communiqués-de-presse/GM-Flax-Contamination-from-Canada-Soars-to-28-Countries](#) target="_self">GM Flax Contamination from Canada Soars to 28 Countries: But Canadian farmers still have no answers

October 2, 2009-Update: Protest at Canadian Consulate in Luxembourg over GM flax contamination from Canada, & "GMO Cultivation = EU Contamination".

September 10, 2009-Press release: [/Presse/Communiqués-de-presse/Illegal-GM-Flax-Contaminates-Canadian-Exports](#) target="_self">Illegal GM Flax Contaminates Canadian Exports: Contamination of European food threatens Canadian export markets