



**Collaborative Campaigning for
Food Sovereignty and Environmental Justice**

— *1st Ever* —

ANNUAL REPORT! 2007



From the CBAN AGM November 17, 2007 Ottawa, Inter Pares office:

Behind the Camera: *Katie Nolan, Canadian Organic Growers.*

From Right to Left Top Row: *Devlin Kuyek, Special Advisor; Dylan Penner, ACT for the Earth; Dwight Lyons, GeneAction Toronto; Maureen Bostock, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario; Eric Chaurette, Inter Pares; Tom Rudge, GE Free Yukon; Sheila Forsyth, Friends of the Earth.*

From Right to Left Bottom Row: *Moe Garahan, Special Advisor; David Bruer, Inter Pares; Lucy Sharratt, Coordinator; Julie Emerson, GE Free BC; Sharon Labchuk, PEI Coalition for a GMO Free Province; Karen Rothschild, Union Paysanne; Brewster Kneen, Special Advisor; Faris Ahmed, USC Canada.*

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I. Campaigning

In 2007, CBAN coordinated the Canadian Ban Terminator campaign and also took on two other major campaigns: “Seed Modernization” and “Green Revolution – Whose Revolution?” We also took up a leadership role in the North American STOP GE Trees Campaign.

BAN TERMINATOR CAMPAIGN

CBAN successfully launched the national campaign to ban Terminator in Canada, following effective action in 2005 and 2006 when Canadians helped to maintain the United Nations moratorium on Terminator seed technology.

In December 2006 CBAN organized a visit by Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher who was called as an expert witness to the House of Commons and Senate Agriculture Committees. These were the first-ever hearings on Terminator in Canada.

With the help of **USC Canada**, CBAN launched a major national postcard campaign. Almost 100,000 postcards have been sent to the Prime Minister so far. The Ban Terminator Campaign was also taken up as the first campaign of **www.RightOnCanada.ca** an internet advocacy campaign tool with the goal of putting human rights back on Canada’s political agenda.

Across Canada, individuals collected signatures on petitions and met with their MPs. **GE Free BC** coordinated petitions across BC and MPs presented these in the House of Commons.

RESULT: On May 31st, NDP MP and Agriculture Critic Alex Atamanenko tabled Private Members Bill C-448 to Ban Terminator Technology in Canada.



NDP Agriculture Critic Alex Atamanenko tabled the Bill to Ban Terminator and is shown here at a press conference on Parliament Hill with Bloc Quebecois Agriculture Critic André Bellavance, and Colleen Ross, National Farmers Union Women’s President, and Lucy Sharratt, CBAN Coordinator, May 31 2007.

CBAN is committed in the long term to seeing this Bill passed into law.



GREEN REVOLUTION – WHOSE REVOLUTION?

CBAN, along with allies in Canada and Africa, also took on the Gates and Rockefeller Foundations and their proposed Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). This is a multi-million dollar 20-year initiative that could pave the way for GE in Africa. Through policy meetings and a public event with West African group COPAGEN (that drew 600 people in Ottawa), we were able to send a message to the Foundations that any efforts to aid Africa need to take the lead from African farmers and their organizations.

RESULT: AGRA is now meeting with COPAGEN and other African farm groups.



Gerry Barr, President and CEO of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation introducing the panel of African and Canadian farm leaders, March 26 2007.

“SEED MODERNIZATION”

To facilitate public participation in the government consultation process of “Seed Program Modernization” which would dramatically change seed regulation, CBAN produced a critical participant’s guide. CBAN, working closely with the National Farmers Union, also spoke out at various consultations and is now following-up to make sure the public input is considered.

RESULT: The consultation period was extended twice due to the volume of submissions, though the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is now ignoring the massive public input it received during the consultation process.

GE TREES

CBAN is a Steering Committee member for the **North American STOP GE Trees Campaign**. In July, CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt traveled to Vermont to participate in the Campaign strategizing meeting and to build CBAN’s capacity to launch an effective STOP GE Trees Campaign in Canada.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL CAMPAIGNING

Inspired by the success of Powell River in B.C., the first GE Free Zone in Canada, GE Free Yukon presented their petition for a

10-year moratorium on plantings, signed by around over 1700 people, to the Yukon Government.

GE Free B.C. steadily gathered more public support for mandatory labeling in BC with their petition and other activities: This year the Chief Medical Officer of Vancouver called on the Provincial Minister of Health to follow the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer, to establish mandatory labeling, and the MP for BC Southern Interior introduced a Private Members Bill in the House of Commons.

II. Research and Monitoring

CBAN has begun some of the desperately needed basic research to update information on genetic engineering, for both farmers and consumers.

CBAN has joined with the National Farmers Union Ontario and the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario in a broad provincial urban-rural exchange and capacity-building project, funded in large part by the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, in which we will produce a factsheet on GE for farmers and one for consumers on farming, GE and organics, for use in various events.

In addition, the first GE-Free health food store in Canada, **The Big Carrot** in Toronto, has provided CBAN with a grant to update information about what GE foods are currently on store shelves.

III. Public Engagement and International Solidarity

CBAN has also been busy reaching out to individuals and engaging with people in local communities one-on-one about genetic engineering, and food and seed politics.

In March, CBAN hosted an all-day Network-to-Network exchange with the West African coalition COPAGEN. CBAN



CBAN Steering Committee member and National Farmers Union Women's President Colleen Ross speaks with COPAGEN organizer Mamadou Goita at the global Food Sovereignty Summit in Mali, February 2007.

Members from across Canada came to learn how farmers in Africa are organizing against genetic engineering. CBAN and COPAGEN members also reported from the February Food Sovereignty Forum in Mali.

CBAN also has been able to act in solidarity with groups internationally. On November 8th CBAN coordinated actions with Members in three locations across Canada to denounce the killing of a Via Campesina organizer in Brazil by militia on Syngenta-owned land while protesting genetic engineering with 200 other farmers. The way in which CBAN Members quickly came together, in three different cities, to condemn the killing is just another example of why CBAN is so important.



CBAN delegation at the Brazilian Consulate in Montreal (MST flag held up by Via Campesina member Union Paysanne). Nov 8 2007.



CBAN delegation in Ottawa speaks with staff at the Brazilian Embassy. Nov 8 2007.

Perhaps most heartening of all, are the innumerable actions that all our Member groups and active individuals take in their own communities: by writing letters to the editor in farm papers, by calling in to radio shows, and speaking out against the fraud that is genetic engineering. Together, CBAN and its Members are increasing public attention to agricultural issues and are encouraging greater solidarity and engagement between urban eaters and farmers, for food sovereignty and environmental justice.

IV. Institution Building

In 2007, CBAN further built its membership base to 16 Member organizations and grassroots groups across the country.

We have a dedicated and effective Steering Committee of farmers and other activists that lends active and critical support to CBAN's Coordinator, Lucy Sharratt, and to CBAN as a whole.

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CBAN is fiscally housed with charitable status as a project of the **Sage Centre** (www.sagecentre.org) and CBAN is physically housed in Ottawa, in-kind, thanks to **ETC Group** (www.etcgroup.org). Happily, CBAN now also has a virtual home at www.cban.ca! Thank you **Carrot Cache** for making the website possible.

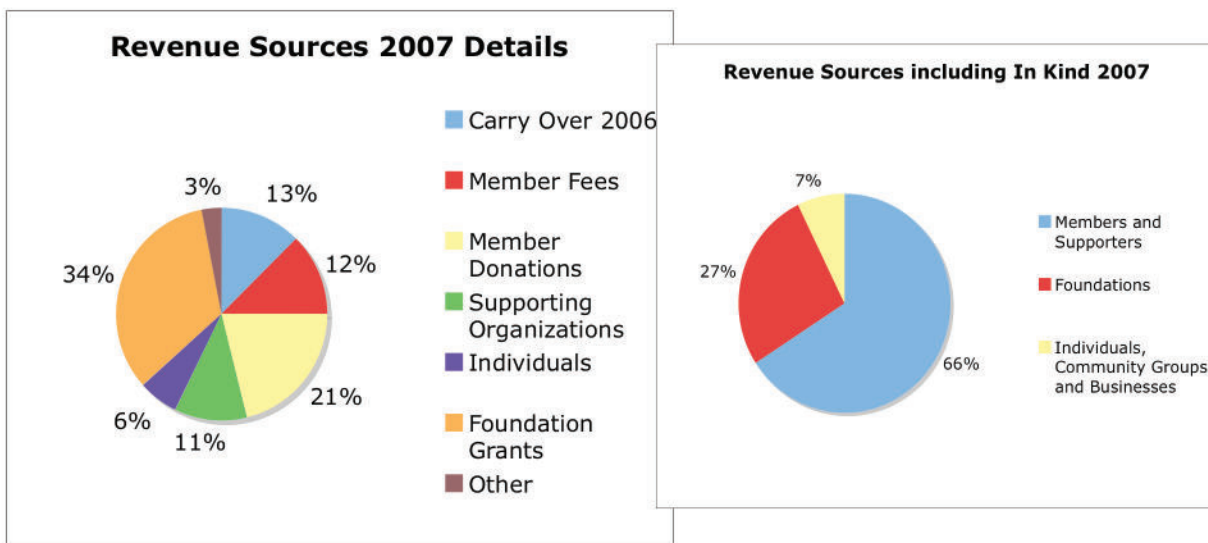
CBAN has kick-started a new era of capacity building for the critical work on genetic engineering. The confidence of Members, individual donors and foundations provides much needed revenue and moral support:

- Member groups are the dominant funders of CBAN and a great deal of in-kind and collaborative work also builds our capacity.
- Individual donors are also an important support. You know who you are!

Thank you to the foundations and businesses who supported our work in 2007:

- Carrot Cache, Toronto
- Patagonia Inc.
- The Big Carrot, Toronto
- Community Natural Foods Calgary
- Ontario Trillium Foundation

Thank you to CBAN Supporters in 2007: ETC Group, Rights & Democracy/Droits et Démocratie, The Ram's Horn.



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2007 CBAN Members:

ACT for the Earth (Toronto) • Biofreedom (Edmonton) • Canadian Organic Growers • Check Your Head Coalition for Safe Food (B.C.) • Council of Canadians • Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario • G.E. Free Yukon GENEAction (Toronto) • 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

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