

CANADIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY
ACTION NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

CBAN MEMBERS

ACT for the Earth (Toronto), Canadian Organic Growers,
Check Your Head, Council of Canadians, Ecological Farmers of Ontario,
Ecology Action Centre Nova Scotia, GE Free Yukon, No More GMOs Toronto,
Greenpeace Canada, Inter Pares, National Farmers Union, GMO Free PEI,
Saskatchewan Organic Directorate, Society for a G.E. Free B.C.,
Union Paysanne, USC Canada, Vigilance OGM



Stronger Together!

2013 was an extremely important and successful year for CBAN, and the movement in Canada.

CBAN coordinated many effective actions built from years of campaign preparation. We also provided strategic research at critical times in our major campaigns

I. Campaigning and Research and Monitoring

GM Food Safety

CBAN continued to closely examine and criticize Agriculture Canada's policy proposal for "Low Level Presence" (LLP).

LLP would allow a percent of GM contamination in food imported to Canada, from GM foods that have not been approved by Health Canada. This is a step towards the industry's goal of removing safety regulations for GM foods.

In January, CBAN submitted comprehensive comments as part of a second round of government consultations.

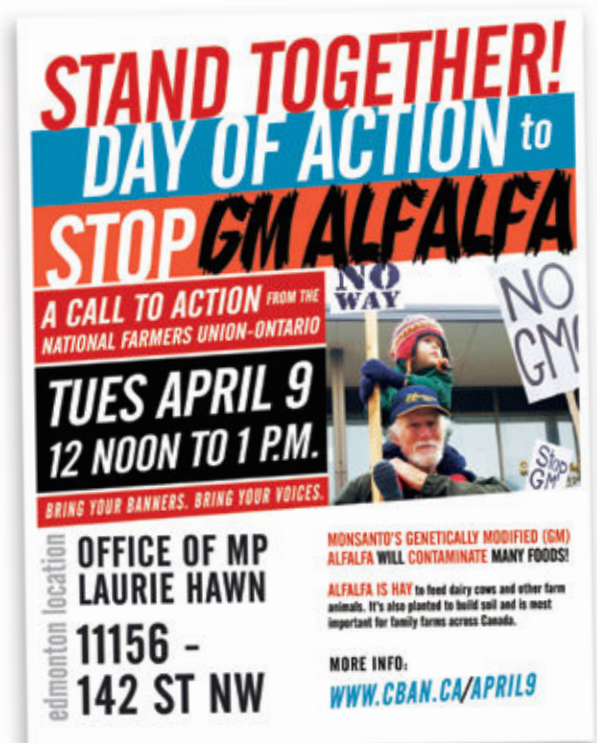
In March, CBAN's Coordinator Lucy Sharratt testified at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture hearings on LLP. The major farm paper *The Western Producer* reported on CBAN's strong testimony in the face of "hostile questions" from Conservative Members of Parliament where treatment of CBAN's Coordinator was described as "rude, crude and abusive". Lucy provided CBAN's detailed analysis of the government's proposals and maintained extraordinary composure and professionalism. At the time, CBAN's Chair Tom Rudge wrote in CBAN's newsletter:

"On behalf of CBAN, I congratulate our staff for responding with persistence, objectivity, integrity and patience in the House of Commons Committee. Our work on this issue demands determination and courage. CBAN continues its' role as your watchdog on genetic engineering in food and farming."

GM Alfalfa

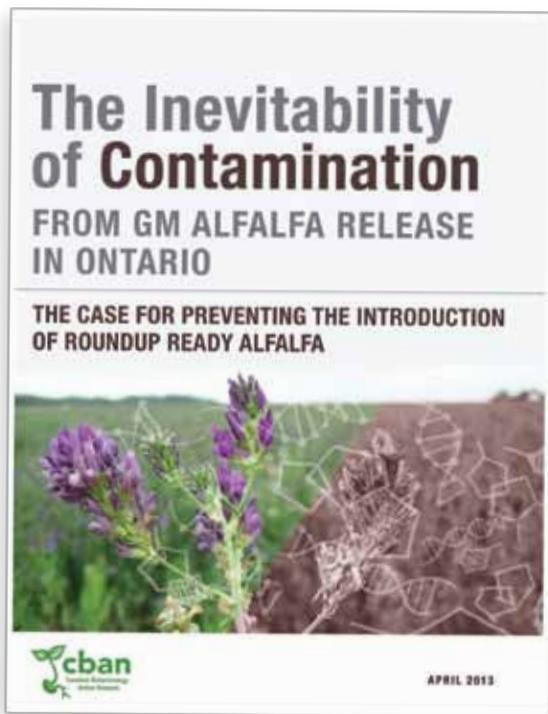
After 5 years of building, the Stop GM Alfalfa campaign culminated in nation-wide protests in 2013 that, with CBAN's other strategic actions, delayed the introduction of GM alfalfa.

CBAN's Member group the National Farmers Union – Ontario called for a *Day of Action to Stop GM Alfalfa* (April 9) and we worked together to organize rallies across the country. The response from rural and urban communities was phenomenal. People organized 38 rallies that brought farmers and consumers together.



Vigilance OGM and farmers' organizations in Quebec also protested outside a summer meeting of the industry lobby group the Canadian Seed Trade Association.

Leading up to the Day of Action, CBAN published the major report "The Inevitability of Contamination from GM Alfalfa Release in Ontario" and, in the summer, we released a second report that critiqued the industry's "coexistence plan". These two reports helped solidify opposition in the farm community and pressure the company, Forage Genetics International, to keep GM alfalfa off the market.



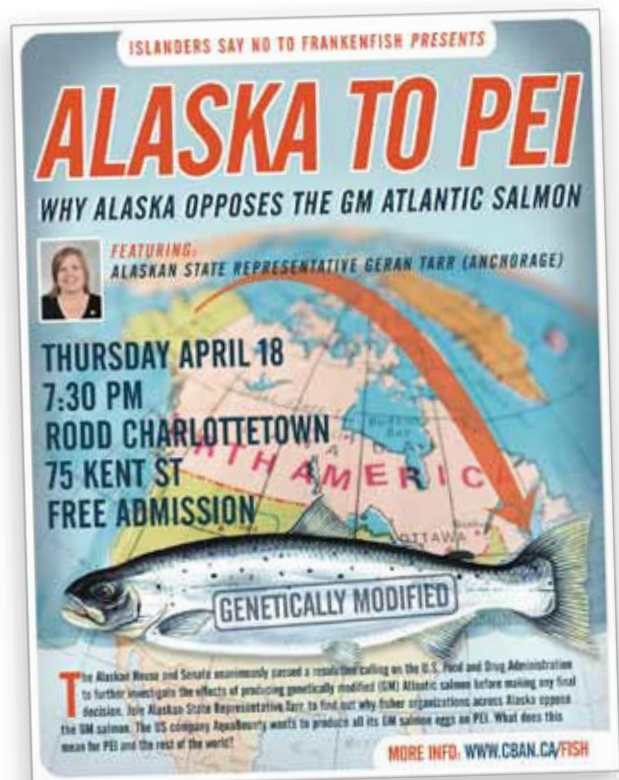
Later in the year, in a bid to ensure that GM alfalfa was not rushed onto the market, CBAN, the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund (OAPF) of the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate, and the National Farmers Union-Ontario supported two Ontario farmers who formally asked Ontario's Environmental Commissioner for an environmental review of GM alfalfa. CBAN prepared a detailed submission with the groups and farmers. While the Ministry of the Environment unfortunately passed off responsibility to the federal government, the document we created provides a full accounting of the threat, and helped keep GM alfalfa off the market in 2013. CBAN thanks the OAPF for securing legal advice.

GM Fish

In 2013, CBAN and our Member group GMO Free PEI and their offshoot group Islanders Say No to Frankenfish organized two unprecedented public events in Prince Edward Island (PEI) that exposed international opposition to the GM salmon.

For two days in April, we hosted a visit from Alaskan State Representative Geran Tarr. The Government of Alaska unanimously opposes the GM salmon, to protect its wild salmon fishery, and Rep. Tarr spoke at a public event in PEI with CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt. Rep. Tarr also met with the PEI Premier. Though the company AquaBounty refused to provide a tour of their facility, we visited the site. There was great local media coverage.

In May, we organized the event "Is the GM Salmon Safe? A look at the data on the health and environment risks" featuring international expert on GM risk assessment, Michael Hansen, Ph.D., from the Consumers Union in the US. The entire event is posted on *The Guardian* PEI newspaper website.



We also invited government delegates from around the world to visit the AquaBounty site. Delegates from Indonesia and Japan who were in PEI for the UN Codex meeting on food safety standards toured the site with representatives from GMO Free PEI.

However, at the end of 2013 the federal Minister of the Environment approved the GM fish for growing in PEI (it is still not approved for eating). CBAN worked with the legal services charity EcoJustice to provide information to groups who considered a legal response. CBAN Member group Ecology Action Centre in Nova Scotia launched a legal challenge in December with Living Oceans Society (BC). CBAN continues to provide research to EAC as they take this issue to the courts.

Congratulations to Ecology Action Centre and Living Oceans Society for taking on this legal action to stop genetic pollution!



GM Sweet Corn

Following the great example set by CBAN member group Vigilance OGM in 2012, CBAN tested GM sweet corn in 2013. We gathered samples from Ontario, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Alberta at the end of the season. Our tests found some GM sweet corn in all 4 provinces, present in grocery stores, farmers markets and roadside stands. 35% of our samples were GM.

Through our testing, CBAN provided the most information on GM sweet corn that Canadians have ever had.

CBAN encouraged people to ask their farmers and write to grocery stores. These actions, with the testing and CBAN's online petition, put pressure on Canada's major grocery stores



GE Free Zones

In 2013, the Society for a GE Free BC got even closer to a GE Free BC! Thanks to years of building community awareness and mobilizing public concern, the Union of BC Municipalities passed a resolution asking the BC government to ban the import, export and growing of all GM plants and animals, to make BC a GE Free province.

Cherryville, Telkwa and the City of North Vancouver also added themselves to the list, now 14, of individual BC municipalities that have declared themselves GE Free Zones, as well as the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities. 13 Regional level official community plans have also come out against GM crops.

GM Apple

In March, BC NDP Agriculture Critic, Lana Popham, presented a petition to stop the GM apple in the BC Legislature, signed by 5536 people representing 19 BC communities! Congratulations to CBAN Member the Society for a GE Free BC and local groups and people across the province!

The Society for GE Free BC was also instrumental in an amazingly successful community effort to offer events on GM, featuring retired Agriculture Canada scientist Thierry Vrain. A committed group of volunteers coordinated so that local people, including GE Free BC groups, could host events with Dr. Vrain, on the science of GM. In total, people organized 36 public events in the "Genetically Engineered Foods and Human Health" tour in BC and Alberta!

CBAN supported the organizing committee with media and strategic advice. The GM apple was a key message that the committee added to the events, and CBAN provided No GM Apple postcards as well as GE Food Chart postcards for participants. The events were extremely well attended, and the high level of public interest attracted local and regional media attention. The tour even raised funds to support future events with Dr. Vrain in other provinces.



Day of Action to Stop GM Alfalfa!

Check out the full photo gallery online at www.cban.ca/april9gallery

duncan BC



victoria BC



▶ rally gallery

Day of Action!

red deer AB



calgary AB



kamloops BC



whitehorse YT



toronto ON



langley BC



guelph ON



Chef Yasser of Artisanale, and daughter Grace, prepare food for protesters

vernon BC



grande prairie AB



stratford ON



thunder bay ON



nelson BC



port colborne ON



kitchener waterloo ON

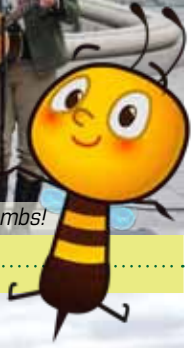


Day of Action!

kingston ON



It's Sarah Harmer, with lambs!



goderich ON



belleville ON



montreal qc



lévis qc



london ON



ottawa ON



halifax ns



MP Megan Leslie joins with the Raging Grannies

wolfville ns



II. Public Education and Awareness

In 2013, CBAN happily welcomed researcher and campaigner Taarini Chopra, to work with us part-time. With Taarini's help, CBAN was able to produce even more crucial information on genetic engineering for the public.



CBAN staff, Taarini Chopra and Lucy Sharratt

Publications

- Factsheet: "Genetically Engineered Cotton" explaining the devastating failure of GM cotton in India.
- Exposé: "GM Crop Data Clarified" describing the reality of industry statistics on GM crop acreage. Every year, the pro-GM group ISAAA releases how much GM is grown around the world, but the way they present their numbers obscures the true story.
- Update: "The Status of Golden Rice" clarifying, for the public and reporters, the fact that GM Vitamin A rice is not yet proven or ready for the market.
- Report: "The Inevitability of Contamination from GM Alfalfa Release in Ontario: The case for preventing the introduction of Roundup Ready alfalfa" documenting the value of alfalfa in Canada and the exact threat of GM contamination, including routes of contamination.
- Submission to the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario: "Request for Environmental Assessment of Genetically Engineered Roundup Ready Alfalfa", detailing the environmental and economic costs if GM alfalfa is released.

- With assistance from Ecojustice, CBAN also submitted questions to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada on GM fish.
- We also published numerous articles on GM issues in magazines, including Common Ground and the BC Organic Grower, as well as a major feature on GM alfalfa in Alternatives.

Videos

- The National Farmers Union Youth released a video of testimonials from farmers about the threat of GM alfalfa, posted on CBAN's YouTube channel.
- Footage from our visit to Aquabounty's GM fish research facility in PEI, with Alaskan State Representative Geran Taar (Provided by Cogent/Benger Productions).
- And footage from a media scrum with Rep. Taar outside the Office of the Premier of PEI, after her meeting with the Premier on GM fish.
- CBAN Members Inter Pares and USC Canada and other groups organized a web-streamed event called "How to Feed 9 Billion on a Small Planet", now archived online.

Events and Presentations

- CBAN's Coordinator Lucy Sharratt spoke on a panel with French scientist Gilles-Eric Séralini, whose team conducted the first long-term animal testing of GM corn, at the Canadian Organic Growers Toronto Conference in February.
- Lucy also spoke at the Conference of Certified Organic Associations of BC, about the threat of GM alfalfa and the strong campaign to stop it.
- In April, representatives from CBAN and GMO Free PEI spoke at a public event we organized together on the GM fish, featuring Alaskan State Representative Geran Tarr.
- In May, CBAN organized an expert lecture in PEI on the GM fish with Islanders Say No to Frankenfish, featuring scientist Michael Hansen from the US Consumers Union.

- We also organized an outing for government delegates from around the world who came to PEI for a UN Codex food standards meeting. Government regulators from Indonesia and Japan took up our invitation to see the site of AquaBounty's facility.
- Both Lucy and Taarini spoke at Ontario screenings of the film "Bitter Seeds", about GM cotton in India.
- At the end of the year, CBAN member group The Society for a GE Free BC was a key partner in a major tour of events in BC and Alberta – 36 events in total! With some support from CBAN, the GM apple was an action focus for the events.
- As usual, CBAN's Coordinator Lucy Sharratt spoke to many communities through the year, including at the Toronto conference of the Canadian Health Food Association, the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Natural Food Co-op, the Canadian Organic Growers Ottawa Seniors Group, and at an event on GM alfalfa organized by Slow Food Wellington County.

III. Media

Press Releases 2013

February 25: Global Growth of GM Crops Overblown: ISAAA yearly report misleads, says CBAN.

February 28: Islanders Say No to GM Salmon: GM Opponents ask Premier to Ban GM Salmon Egg Production in PEI.

March 7: Changes to GM Food Safety Regulation Debated: Proposal for "Low Level Presence" would remove Health Canada from safety evaluation of some GM foods.

March 12: BC Opposition to GM Apple Mounts: Petition Presented in Provincial Legislature.

April 2: New Report Warns of Inevitable Contamination if GM Alfalfa Released in Ontario.

Continued...



A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY BOYD FOR BEING AWARDED THE ORDER OF CANADA! Mary is an activist with the CBAN Member group "GMO Free PEI" and its offshoot group "Islanders Say No to Frankenfish". The recognition is well deserved: "Mary Boyd has spent most of her adult life giving a voice to the vulnerable and marginalized on Prince Edward Island." We are honoured to work with such dedicated and caring people. Thank you for your action and commitment Mary!

At AquaBounty in PEI. Mary Boyd is on the far right; Leo Broderick, Islanders Say No to Frankenfish; Lucy Sharratt, CBAN; Alaska State Representative Geran Tarr; Sharon Labchuk, Islanders Say No to Frankenfish

April 8: *Media Advisory:* 38 Protest Rallies Across Ontario and Canada: April 9 for Day of Action to Stop GM Alfalfa.

Media Advisory: International expert to speak in Charlottetown on GM salmon risks

Media Advisory: Alaskan State Representative to Speak in PEI on the Genetically Modified (GM) Salmon

May 29: Illegal GM Wheat Contamination Discovered in US: Contamination Status in Canada is Unknown.

July 15: Protesters Demand Industry Meeting Abandon GM Alfalfa Plans

July 25: Farmers Seek Environmental Assessment of GM Alfalfa from Ontario Government.

November 21: Complaint in Panama Raises Concerns About GM Fish Research in Canada.

November 25: Canada's Approval of GM Fish Eggs Threatens Environment, Groups Say.

Media Backgrounders

- Genetically Modified Foods
- GM Crop Data Clarified: Interpreting the ISAAA Report
- GM Fish in Canada
- GM Alfalfa and Ontario Action
- Genetically Modified (GM) Atlantic Salmon in PEI
- Status of Golden Rice
- Genetically Modified Wheat

IV. Thank You

Thank you to everyone who is participating with us!

Thank you to our funders in 2013!

The Big Carrot Natural Foods, Toronto

Inter Pares

Ontario Natural Food Co-op

Organic Agriculture Protection Fund of the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate

Patagonia Inc.

Thank you to our other supporters in 2013!

Alberta Organic Producers Association

Artisanale French Country Cooking, Guelph

Canadian Health Food Association

Eatmore Sprouts, BC

la Filière biologique du Québec

Harmony Organic, Ontario

Julie Daniluk R.H.N., Daniluk Consulting

The Kootenay Co-op Store, Nelson, BC

Mumm's Sprouting Seeds, Saskatchewan

Nature's Path Foods

Nutiva Inc.

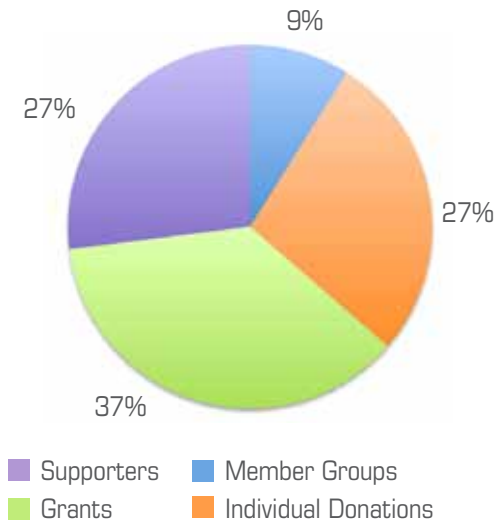
Shuswap Seed Savers

Thank you to everyone who donated!

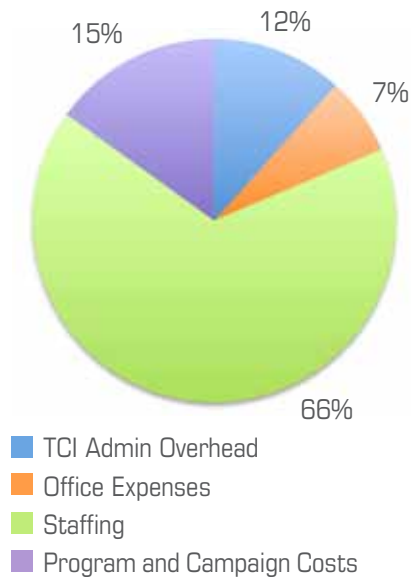
170 people donated to CBAN in 2013!

V. Finances

2013 CBAN Incoming \$129,110



2013 CBAN Expenses \$91,294



Overhead — This number is Tides Canada Initiatives Overhead Allocation for governance, human resources, financial and grants management

CBAN is a project of Tides Canada Initiatives. Tides Canada Initiatives (TCI) is a shared platform that provides professional administration to a range of projects and collaborations across Canada with a common base of expertise. The TCI support team takes care of the books, contracts and human resource needs so project staff can drive real world change without the challenges of managing a stand-alone charity.

Some feedback from the public in 2013

“ I value these news updates so much for their conciseness, well-researched information and relevant links and dates. These e-blasts are the number one way I stay informed on genetic modification in Canada.

“ Just needed to say thank you for all of your work in front and behind the scenes. You need to know without your end we would not have brought this out to the general public. BRAVO, WELL DONE

“ Thank you! You are doing great work keeping people informed!

“ Thank you so much for holding the high ground.

“ Thanks for helping to coordinate all the events happening across Canada and the materials that CBAN shared with people

“ In my estimation CBAN is the most effective voice on the GMO issue in Canada thanks to your dedication — THANK YOU!!

“ Your work is empowering and inspiring.

“ Thanks also for providing tools to allow us to get engaged like this. You keep me aware and equipped with knowledge and the tools to speak out.

“ I am very pleased with your site and organization and how user friendly it is.

“ I read your emails regularly and I want to thank you for them and all the work your organization does. As an individual with a background in genetics and molecular biology, I have serious concerns about GMOs. Thank you for giving my concerns a voice.

“ I am so grateful to you, on behalf of the beneficiaries of your amazing efforts, i.e., the people of this planet...I thank you more than words can ever say.

“ Thank you for inspiring us all to do more.

GM CROPS GROWN IN CANADA			GM FOODS IMPORTED TO CANADA		
CROP	TRAIT	WHERE ON THE SHELVES	FOOD	GROWN	WHERE ON THE SHELVES
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	COTTON-SEED OIL	U.S.	Cottonseed oil • Vegetable oil in processed foods such as potato chips
CANOLA	Herbicide tolerant	Canola oil • Eggs, milk and meat	PAPAYA	U.S. (Hawaii)	Papaya in fruit juices and other processed foods
SOY	Herbicide tolerant	Soy oil • Soy protein • Soy lecithin • Tofu • Soy beverages • Soy puddings • Eggs, milk and meat	SQUASH	U.S.	Some zucchini • Yellow crookneck and straightneck squash
SUGAR BEET	Herbicide tolerant	Sugar	MILK PRODUCTS (BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE)	U.S.	Milk solids and powder • Frozen desserts with dairy • Imported mixed drinks with milk ingredients

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Collaborative Campaigning for Food Sovereignty and Environmental Justice

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN), a project of Tides Canada Initiatives, works hand in hand with farmer, environmental, community and social justice organizations, and with the concerned public to research and monitor, educate and mobilize, and create strategic opportunities for grassroots action on the issue of genetic engineering in food and farming.

