



Collaborative Campaigning for
Food Sovereignty and Environmental Justice

annual report

2010



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, Food Action Committee of Ecology Action Centre, Halifax, GE Free Yukon, GeneAction (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

CBAN, 431 Gilmour Street, Second Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2P 0R5
Tel: 613 241 2267 ext.6 | Fax: 613 241 2506 | E-mail: coordinator@cban.ca | www.cban.ca

Thanks to CBAN, the most significant Parliamentary debate on genetically modified (GM) crops took place in Canada in 2010. For the first time, politicians were forced to acknowledge the negative impacts of GM crops on farmers.

I. Campaigning and Research and Monitoring

BILL C-474

CBAN worked hard all year to build public and political support for Private Members Bill C-474, brought forward by NDP Agriculture Critic Alex Atamanenko. The Bill presented an unprecedented opportunity for action and successfully united many farming communities, both conventional and organic, and mobilized tens of thousands of Canadians.

CBAN provided information and analysis to the public and to Members of Parliament in many different forms including flyers, articles, opinion pieces, action alerts, letters and briefings. Monsanto was forced to directly respond to CBAN in the farm press, and CBAN's campaign was so successful that industry groups such as CropLife imitated our web-based MP letter actions.

CBAN supported many farmer and other groups in their presentations to the House of Commons Agriculture Committee and in December we were called to testify.

RESULT

Concerned Canadians sent over 12,000 letters to MPs and collected over 6000 signatures on petitions to their representatives. Many also made phone calls and met with their MPs. MPs were educated about the impacts of GM and, along with their political parties, were forced to respond to farmer concerns over GM. Corporations and industry groups were also forced to publicly justify their practice of introducing GM crops that farmers don't want, such as GM alfalfa.



Maureen Bostock, National Farmers Union and Lucy Sharratt, CBAN Coordinator speak in support of Bill C-474 at a press

conference on Parliament Hill, March 16. Seen here with Bill sponsor NDP Agriculture Critic Alex Atamanenko and NDP MP Malcolm Allen.

CBAN PRESSURE CAMPAIGN DEFIED BIOTECH INDUSTRY EFFORTS TO SHUT DOWN DEBATE

Despite a strong and well-financed industry effort to stop the debate on Bill C-474 from even taking place, CBAN built enough public pressure that, in April, MPs voted to send the Bill for study in the House of Commons Agriculture Committee. This meant that farm leaders were able to present their concerns over GM alfalfa and other GM issues. In October, a technical motion in the House of Commons to extend the hearings was narrowly defeated - but even then, the biotech industry did not succeed in shutting down debate. Instead, the New Democratic Party secured a 5-hour debate on the Bill, a first in Parliament on GM issues. Public pressure was so strong that the Liberals and Conservatives started a new series of Committee hearings on the biotech industry. Thanks to the work of CBAN and others, concern over GM alfalfa dominated these hearings

NO TO GM ALFALFA

CBAN put the problem of GM alfalfa front and centre in the campaign to support Bill C-474. We increased awareness about the threat of GM alfalfa in the public, House of Commons, and among organic sector groups. CBAN also worked with US groups and helped the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund of the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate write substantial comments to the US Department of Agriculture as part of their environmental assessment process.

RESULT

GM alfalfa became a hot political issue, uniting conventional and organic farmers, and public awareness about the threat increased tremendously.



STOP "ENVIROPIG™"

In collaboration with Beyond Factory Farming, CBAN successfully established a campaign to stop the GM "Enviropig" which came closer to approval in 2010. We researched and produced an important report on the GM pig. CBAN reached out to students at the University of Guelph, where the GM pig was developed, and helped them pressure University representatives to participate in a debate on campus. CBAN and the National Farmers Union Ontario handily won the first-ever public debate with UofG scientists and administrators. This was just the start of the pressure campaign that will continue to build in 2011.



RESULT

The University of Guelph came under tremendous pressure to defend the GM pig in the media and public. The University was, for the first time, forced into a public debate on campus. Groups and journalists across the world are turning to CBAN for information and the local Guelph community is mobilizing to stop the GM pig.



CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt on the Business News Network.

GM SALMON

The US government came close to approving a GM salmon in late 2010. CBAN responded immediately and coordinated a national response with 60 fisheries and oceans groups and other environmental organizations. We also communicated with federal and provincial politicians as well as with Environment Canada officials.

The GM salmon comes from the US company AquaBounty but the research to develop the fish began in Canada and the company wants to produce all the GM salmon eggs on Prince Edward Island. The PEI Coalition for a GMO Free Province is a CBAN member and together we were able to build a strong campaign to stop the GM salmon. CBAN is also working closely with a US coalition of groups opposing GM salmon. Without CBAN, there may have been no coordinated response in Canada.



RESULT

A unified national campaign with fisheries and oceans groups as well as strong grassroots opposition on Prince Edward Island is the basis for ongoing and escalating action to stop GM salmon.

GM WHEAT

In early 2010, CBAN announced the final Global Rejection of GM Wheat sign-on statement that we coordinated with 233 groups from 26 countries. CBAN continues to monitor the issue with groups around the world.

RESULT

There is an updated strong global voice opposing Monsanto's promotion of GM Wheat.

LABELING

CBAN organized an action alert and press release with the Quebec Network Against GMOs to focus attention on the UN Codex meeting on GM food labeling in Quebec City in May. The negotiations were in danger of being cancelled altogether.

RESULT

We saved the international negotiations on GM food labeling. Without support from the Canadian government, the US could not stop the UN negotiations. This means that countries could soon be protected from trade challenges over their labeling laws.

AGROFUELS

CBAN continues to monitor the impacts of agrofuels (biofuels) and is continually called on to provide information to communities and the media. As part of the Working Group on Canadian Science and Technology Policy, CBAN helped organize an international panel called "Earth Grab" in Montreal, to open the national Food Secure Canada Assembly. The event focused on the corporate grab of plant life as "biomass" and featured peasant leaders from Haiti and Mali as well as our friends from ETC Group.



RESULT

CBAN is one of only a few Canadian sources of critical information on agrofuels and we bring the concerns of our international partners, including small scale farmers and indigenous peoples, into the Canadian debate.

II. Public Education and Grassroots Organizing

In addition to all the information and resources we provide on issues and campaigns, CBAN directly supports community organizers across Canada. CBAN also responds to public requests for information and creates resource materials for community events

► FARM UPDATE 2010:

CBAN, the National Farmers Union Ontario and the Ecological Farmers of Ontario published a second update on GMOs for farmers in Ontario as part of the Ontario Trillium Foundation education grant.



► WORKSHOPS:

CBAN brought our youth project "Dig In!" to the Guelph Organic Conference. We coordinated a team of youth leaders, including young farmers, to lead the highly-acclaimed interactive workshop "Seeds of Love" followed by a strategy workshop and information presentation

CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt and Patrick Conner from The Big Carrot, Seedy Sunday, February 21, Toronto.

► INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEASANTS' STRUGGLE:

April 17 is International Day of Peasants' Struggle. CBAN sent out the call for action from La Via Campesina and lent crucial support to local organizing in Halifax. CBAN's "Stop Monsanto" buttons were distributed at the Farmers' Market and our banner was part of a celebration march to the Commons where the community participated in a Food and Fun Fair.



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO SAVE SEED

CANADA-EUROPE TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA)

CBAN got involved at a very early stage in the response to the new Canada-Europe Trade deal negotiations. CBAN is a founding member of the new Trade Justice Network. Although it looked like GMOs would be a future pressure issue, GM foods are actually excluded from CETA. However, CBAN Member the National Farmers Union (NFU) identified a major attack on seed saving and local food in CETA. In April, CBAN helped organize, and chaired, a public forum in Ottawa featuring NFU President Terry Boehm and guests from Europe.



RESULT

Coordinated critiques of CETA highlight the impacts on seed saving and local food.

FARM SAVED FLAX SEED PROTECTED!



After GM flax contaminated Canada’s flax exports in late 2009, major grain company Viterro and others tried to use this GM contamination crisis to force farmers to abandon their farm-saved seed and purchase certified seed instead. CBAN’s public spotlight on the crisis helped ensure the industry effort failed.

RESULT

The approximately 75% of Canada’s flax farmers who use farm-saved seed were protected.

SOLIDARITY FOR HAITI’S FARMERS REJECTING MONSANTO’S SEEDS

After the devastating earthquake in Haiti, farmers across Haiti used much of their seed to feed people fleeing the cities. Monsanto later arranged to donate hybrid corn seeds to Haiti, but Haitian farmers rejected Monsanto’s “gift” as a threat to their future. Haitian farmer groups organized a march of 10,000 farmers on June 4 and asked groups around the world to join them in the “Struggle Against Monsanto”. CBAN, Union Paysanne, and Action SOS Haiti organized a solidarity action for this same day outside the Haitian Consulate in Montreal.



Solidarity action outside the Haitian Consulate in Montreal, June 4, 2010 including Lucy Sharratt, CBAN Coordinator; Karen Rothschild, Union Paysanne; Eric Darier, Greenpeace; representative from Cuisiniers Sans Frontières; Sebastien Roux, HAITI: One Seed One Land. The green flag of La Via Campesina is featured.



RESULT

Thanks to our action, the Haitian Consulate met with a delegation of our representatives and the inspiring protest of Haitian farmers’ was covered in the Canadian media.

10,000 Haitian farmers marched to protest Monsanto’s seed donation, June 4, 2010, Haiti.

III. Media

Every year CBAN generates more media coverage. CBAN is now the established critical voice and information source on GMOs in Canada. For example, in 2010 CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt debated the creator of the GM pig on the Business News Network. Lucy also writes articles about GMOs for community, national and international media. In 2010 this work included:

- A feature article on Monsanto's "SmartStax" corn in *Alive* magazine.
- An update on the GM flax contamination crisis for GRAIN's international magazine *Seedling*.
- Regular feature articles in *Common Ground* magazine on Bill C-474, Enviropig, biofuels and GM salmon.



PRESS RELEASES 2010

- December 6: Groups Oppose Genetically Engineered Salmon: Demand Immediate Disclosure from Environment Canada
- December 2: Unprecedented Debate on Genetic Engineering Secured in House of Commons for 2011 thanks to Bill C-474
- November 22: PEI Groups request Premier Ghiz to press Environment Canada for disclosure on GE Salmon
- October 28: Conservatives Shut Down Debate on Biotech Harm to Farmers: Parliamentary hearings cancelled to protect biotechnology corporations
- September 21 - Press Statement: Groups in the US and Canada urge the FDA to heed yesterday's warnings by scientists regarding the safety of genetically engineered salmon and reject company's request for approval
- September 20: Critics slam "sloppy science" on GE Fish at FDA hearings: FDA overlooked evidence of allergy potential and accepted deficient data say groups
- September 16: PEI Groups Denounce Plans for Local GE Salmon Production: PEI representative to attend US hearings on GE fish safety
- September 8: As U.S. Decision on GE Fish Nears Final Stage, Company Reveals Plan to Produce GE Salmon Eggs in Canada
- August 27 - Joint Press Statement: Coalition Demands FDA Deny Approval of Controversial GE Fish: FDA Considers Approval of GE Salmon--the First GE Food Animal--Yet Fails to Inform the Public of Environmental and Economic Risks.
- June 3: Haitian Farmers Say "Burn Monsanto's Seeds": Canadian groups support Haitian rejection of Monsanto's seed donation
- April 30: Canada to oppose the right of countries to label GM foods?
- April 15: MPs listen to Canadians ahead of industry on GM Crops: Groups applaud MPs for moving Bill C-474 to Committee for study
- March 16: GE Crops: Parliament to debate the need for export market acceptance before commercial release
- March 11: Controversy Grows Over Brier Corporate Sponsor Monsanto
- March 3: Stop GE Alfalfa from Contaminating Canadian Farms: Canadian Farm and Consumer Groups Urge U.S. Department of Agriculture to Stop Monsanto's New GE Seed
- February 9: GM Wheat rejected by 233 Consumer, Farmer Groups in 26 Countries

IV. Thank You

Thank you to our funders in 2010

The Big Carrot Natural Market, Toronto
Carrot Cache Community Resources Inc.
Cornerstone Campaign
Inter Pares
Ontario Natural Food Co-op
Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ontario Government
Patagonia Inc.
Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation

Thanks also to the Kootenay Co-op in BC: On August 17, 1% of all purchases went to CBAN!

Thank you to our Supporters

ETC Group

Thank you to individuals for your important donations!

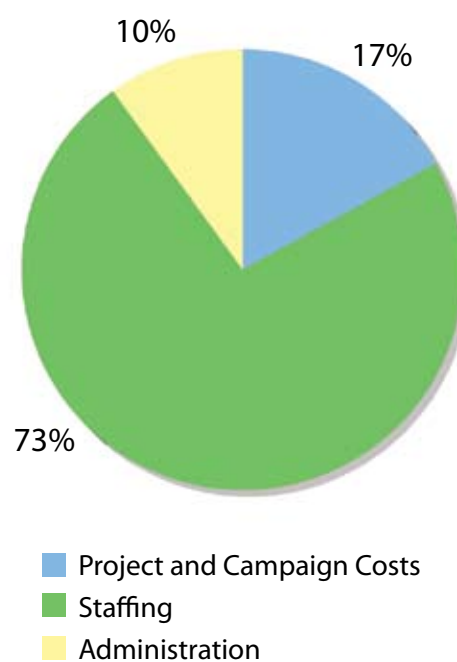
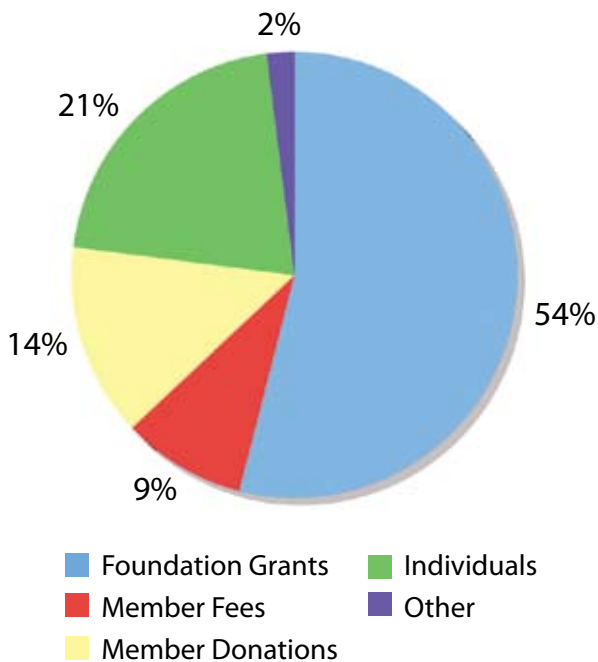


Jim Thomas, ETC Group, Canada; Iderle Brenus, Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP), Haiti; Ibrahim Coulibaly, COPAGEN, Mali. Speakers at "Earth Grab" event November 26, Montreal.

V. Finances

2010 CBAN Incoming \$72,521

2010 CBAN Expenses \$63,225



Some feedback from the public in 2010

I can't thank the people of CBAN enough for all the work you're doing on behalf of people, animals and the planet, and I'd like to spread the word. – Lesley (ON)

Just a quick thank you for all your hard work (Lucy and your team). It's good to know I can be a part of this, thanks to your organization. – Amanda

Hats off to cban - I find the information received by you very informative and of the utmost importance - very much appreciated. – Frank

I am VERY impressed by your website, by the way. It's well done. – Sandra (SK)

We've been impressed with the depth of the data that you've been digging up and disseminating. – Jeff

Thank you for your work on the Bill C-474 campaign. You made it easy for me and friends to take action. – Hayley

I recently read your pamphlet [Why Your Food Choices Matter]. It is very impressive. – Chris (ON)

The pamphlet Why Your Food Choices Matter is one of the best consumer food guides that I've seen. – Claire (ON)

I am ecstatic. My heart is filled with joy and gratitude. You worked day and night to make sure this happened. I have never seen so much power. 1 person cannot change the world by themselves, BUT 1 person can motivate and inspire everyone to change the world. Your selfless dedication did just that. The Future Thanks You!!!! – Julie (ON) (on the House of Commons vote that began hearings on Bill C-474)

This submission is an absolutely super incredible, very readable, hard-hitting document. I read it through from front to back. I literally couldn't put it down until I was finished. (I accidentally burned the pork chops because of it). – Arnold (SK)

I have just read the article written by Lucy Sharratt in the February edition of "Alive". I am a Holistic Nutritionist practicing here in Kingston, Ontario. I have heard of CBAN before during my studies. I could not make it to the Guelph Organic Conference this year. Happily, I found Lucy's article and got a dandy education right here in my office. Please extend my thanks and congratulations... Keep up the good work! – Robin (ON)

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
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

Check www.cban.ca/gmfoods for updates

GM FOODS IMPORTED TO CANADA

FOOD	GROWN	WHERE ON THE SHELVES
5. Cottonseed 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

Check www.cban.ca/gmfoods for updates



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