

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

COURT CASE

The GM salmon finally had its day in court! The legal challenge to the decision to allow production of the GM fish in Canada was heard in federal court in November. Ecojustice lawyers represented CBAN member Ecology Action Centre (Nova Scotia) along with Living Oceans Society (British Columbia). The judge's decision came down just before the end of the year and is now being appealed on grounds that it was unclear. CBAN's multiple letters to government departments were submitted as "exhibits" in Ecology Action Centre's affidavit.

MEDIA

CBAN's Coordinator Lucy Sharratt was interviewed on CBC Radio's *The Current* (on GM animals) and *The 180* (on the GM apple). Lucy was also extensively quoted in *The Hill Times* "GM and Irradiated Food Policy Briefing". The findings of the *GMO Inquiry* have also been reported in the farm press and national media.

EVENTS

CBAN and GE Free BC hosted two events in BC as part of the Pacific Northwest events tour "Genetically Engineered Trees: A Growing Threat", with UK scientist Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher. The events were part of CBAN's work with international partners in the STOP GE Trees Campaign.

CBAN also organized three presentations with international partners at a global meeting in Germany on GMOs. We shared the results of the *GMO Inquiry* and met with activists from around the world to discuss the latest industry strategies, including the push to bring GM seeds to Africa.

CBAN staff presented *GMO Inquiry* findings at ten talks and workshops across Canada, and were present with information at six conferences.

ARTICLES

CBAN wrote a chapter for *The Harper Record 2008-2015* published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, on the government proposal for "Low Level Presence", that is, to accept unapproved GM food in contaminated imports to Canada. CBAN also wrote articles and blog posts on *GMO Inquiry* findings and other GM news.

ACCOUNTABILITY + TRANSPARENCY

CBAN monitors industry public relations and our request to conference organizers ensured that US professor Dr. Kevin Folta disclosed his conflict of interest (funding from Monsanto) when speaking on GMOs at the McGill Lorne Trottier Public Science Symposium Series called "A Question of Evidence: Vaccines, GMOs, and Cell Phones." CBAN provided a guide to Party policies on GMOs for Canadian voters during the federal election. CBAN commissioned an Ipsos Reid poll which confirmed that 88% of Canadians want labelling, 59% oppose genetically modifying crops and animals to produce food, and 48% support a ban. The results are available at www.cbanc.ca/2015poll

We honour the life and work of **ANDRÉ NAULT** who died in 2015. André was a dedicated environmental and local food activist in Quebec who worked hard in his community and with CBAN member Vigilance OGM. He was warm, funny and courageous – and he made a huge difference. Thanks for everything André!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED IN 2015!

Thank you to all our funders in 2015!

The Bernard and Edith Ennis Foundation

The Big Carrot Natural Market, Toronto

Canadian Health Food Association

Community Natural Foods

Daniluk Consulting Inter Pares

Nature's Path Foods

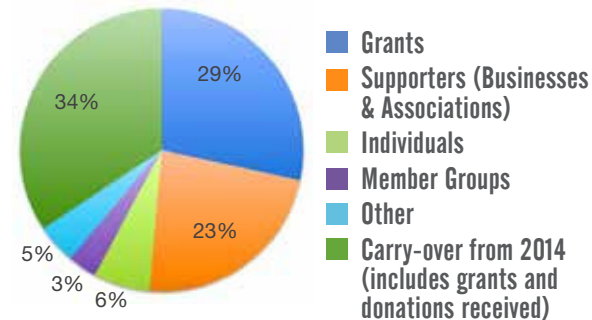
New Roots Herbal

Ontario Natural Food Co-op

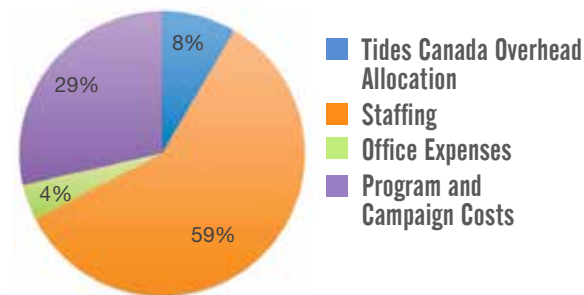
Patagonia Inc.

FINANCES

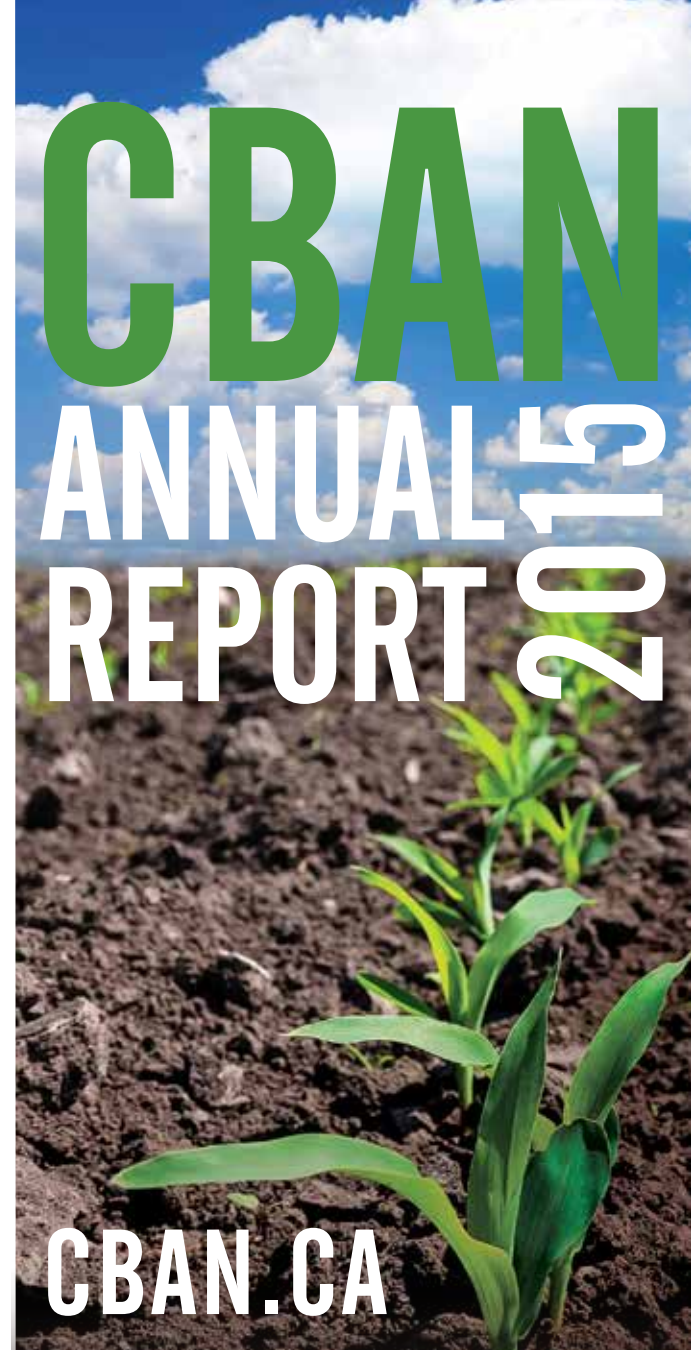
2015 CBAN Revenue \$269,427



2015 CBAN Expenses \$209,415



CBAN is a project on Tides Canada's shared platform, which provides governance, human resources, financial, and grant management. 10% of revenue received is allocated to overhead to support these costs; a portion of 2014 overhead costs was carried forward to 2015, resulting in a slight reduction in overhead allocated from total 2015 revenue. Tides Canada has full fiduciary and governance responsibility for CBAN.

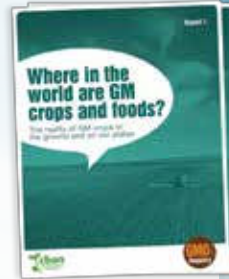


2015 was a groundbreaking year for CBAN. Over the course of the year, we conducted an ambitious and unprecedented investigation into the risks and impacts of 20 years of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Canada. We published six reports, in French and English, as part of our project called *GMO Inquiry*. The reports cover a wide range of critical concerns and questions – questions that were left unanswered after two decades.

The *GMO Inquiry* provides comprehensive documentation of the impacts of GMOs in food and farming, on our health, environment, society and economy. We dug into the real status of GM crops and foods in Canada and around the world, and the state of government regulation and international science. This extensive research is the first of its kind in Canada.



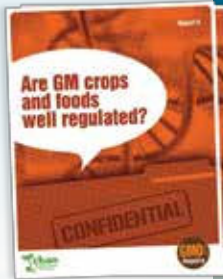
The federal government does not track which GM crops are grown in Canada, where they are grown, or how much. CBAN put together the first independent estimates using industry numbers, the few government statistics that exist, and our own research. We also analyzed the distribution of GM crops around the world.



The report finds that there is no scientific consensus on GM food safety. CBAN's report shows that there is not enough independent science on the potential health risks of GM foods, and very few long-term tests have been conducted on GM food safety questions. GM foods remain on grocery store shelves without labels, despite two decades of polling that shows over 80% of Canadians want mandatory labelling.



For twenty years, the Canadian government has been approving GM crops, foods – and now animals – in a process that is not transparent and without any public consultations, either with farmers or consumers. Government approvals are based on science submitted by biotechnology companies, and classified by the government as “confidential business information.” The report breaks down how, in almost every way, the regulatory process is not transparent to Canadians.



The federal government does not track the impact of GM crops on pesticide use in Canada, and only began tracking pesticide sales in 2008. CBAN's investigation revealed that herbicide sales in Canada have increased by 130% over the twenty years that GM crops have been in the ground. The report also documented the increased use of glyphosate and spread of glyphosate-resistant weeds. GM crops are entrenching the pesticide treadmill in Canadian farming.



GM crops are not putting more money into the pockets of Canadian farmers. Patented GM seeds cost more than non-GM seeds, in Canada and other countries. The seed market is dominated by just a few companies, which means higher prices and fewer choices. There is no evidence that crop yield increases over the past two decades are due to GM traits. In addition, the spread of herbicide-resistant weeds and GM contamination has increased costs for many farmers.



We often hear the claim that we need GMOs to feed the world, but this statement ignores the fact that hunger is caused by poverty and inequality. In fact, we already produce enough food to feed the world's population, but waste one third of it. GM technology cannot address these problems and the global experience with patented GM seeds shows that they are more likely to enhance and entrench the environmental, social and economic problems caused by industrial agriculture and corporate control.



THE RESPONSE

The *GMO Inquiry* received 700 questions from people in English and 350 questions in French, and 11,500 visitors came to the *GMO Inquiry* website, from over 130 countries.

The reports were also distributed and used by international civil society organizations, and some have been inspired to start similar investigations in their own countries.

THE VERDICT

The use of genetically modified crops in Canada has driven up pesticide use and put some non-GM crops at risk of GM contamination, with related costs to farmers and the environment. Overall, GM crops, trees and animals are rooted in, and perpetuate, a model of agriculture that has serious environmental and social impacts and is not sustainable in the long-term. GM crops have diminished the choices available to farmers, while strengthening the control of a few global companies. There is no place for GM crops in an ecologically sustainable and socially just food system.

All the *GMO Inquiry* reports and summary pamphlets are available at

GMOINQUIRY.CA