



Participants in CBAN's Strategic Planning meeting, March in Ottawa. From left to right - Top row: Mary Lou McDonald, No More GMOs Toronto; Faris Ahmed, USC Canada; Peter Eggers, National Farmers Union; Tom Rudge; Growers of Organic Food Yukon; Calinda Brown, Ecology Action Centre; Eric Chaurette, Inter Pares. Middle row: David Bruer, Inter Pares; Genevieve Grossenbacher, USC Canada; Terran Giacmini, No More GMOs Toronto; Robyn Rees, Union Paysanne; Heather Lee; No More GMOs Toronto; Taarini Chopra, CBAN staff. Bottom row: Karen Rothschild, Union Paysanne; Elise Barber, Check Your Head; Emily McTaggart, Canadian Organic Growers; Maureen Kirkpatrick, CBAN Steering Committee; Cathy Holtslander, National Farmers Union; Abra Brynne, CBAN Steering Committee; Martin Boettcher, National Farmers Union; Devlin Kuyek, CBAN Steering Committee.

CBAN ANNUAL REPORT

2016



CBAN.CA



In 2016 CBAN used the important findings from our *GMO Inquiry* investigations to shed light on the impacts and risks of genetically modified organisms. We shared information through many presentations and articles, and got extensive media coverage.

CBAN continued to monitor, research and campaign as the GM salmon was approved and GM alfalfa seeds were released in 2016. Both of these GMOs pose grave environmental and economic threats.

GM Animals

In 2016, Health Canada approved the first-ever genetically modified (GM) animal – a GM Atlantic salmon – for human consumption. We testified at the House of Commons Agriculture Committee hearings on “Genetically modified animals for human consumption” where we urged the government to establish mandatory GM food labelling before the GM salmon hit the market. The committee recommended greater transparency in regulation and support for independent research into the health, environmental and other risks of GM foods - but it recommended against GM labelling.

The court case challenging the 2013 federal decision to approve production of GM salmon in Canada concluded at the end of the year. The judges did not overturn the government’s approval but did confirm some important restrictions on production. This was the case brought by CBAN’s member group Ecology Action Centre (NS) along with Living Oceans Society (BC), represented by lawyers at Ecojustice and supported by CBAN’s research.



Ecojustice lawyers Scott McAnsh and Kaitlyn Mitchell discuss the legal arguments challenging government approval of GM salmon production, with CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt and Ecology Action Centre Policy Director Mark Butler at the Federal Court of Appeal in Ottawa.

GM ANIMALS?

**HOUSE OF
COMMONS
AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS
HAVE STARTED!**

SHARE YOUR VIEWS with your MPs
CBAN.CA/GMANIMALS



GM Alfalfa

A small amount of GM alfalfa seed was sold in Canada in 2016 for the first time. The company had planned to put it on the market several years earlier but delayed the release because of vocal concerns about GM contamination. GM alfalfa sales were met with coordinated and ongoing resistance from farmer organizations from across the country. CBAN continues to track GM alfalfa with farmers and provide information about the contamination risk.

Mega-Mergers and Corporate Control

In 2016, CBAN alerted the public, media and governments to the consequences of proposed mergers between the biggest biotech and pesticide companies. Bayer confirmed a \$66-billion takeover of Monsanto, Dow and Dupont agreed to merge, and Chinese company ChemChina bought Syngenta. If regulators allow all three mergers, the resulting three companies would control almost 61% of commercial seed sales and more than 65% of global pesticide sales.

CBAN wrote to Canada's Competition Bureau with concerns that the mergers would lead to increased seed prices, decreased choices for farmers, and stifle research and development. These are the predictable consequences of corporate consolidation in most sectors, and our *GMO Inquiry* research confirmed these trends have already been playing out in the North American seed market over the past two decades.

STOP the MEGA-MERGERS

CORPORATE CONCENTRATION in SEEDS and
PESTICIDES THREATENS FARMERS and CONSUMERS



After Victoria's council meeting confirming a GE-Free city. Local activists from left to right: Arzeena Hamir, Tony Beck, Gurdeep Stephens.

MORE GE-FREE ZONES!

The long years of work in local communities across BC, supported by CBAN's Member group GE Free BC, continued to see results in 2016.

Victoria became a GE-Free Zone after years of work by local residents!

The Village of Cumberland in BC also adopted a "Preferential Non GMO purchase policy"! Cumberland Council added to its Sustainable Procurement Practices, that, *"The Village does not support the purchase of genetically modified (GMO) apples and salmon; and for all other products, the Village prefers to purchase non-genetically modified products where reasonable."*

Some of our media coverage in 2016

- » CBAN's Coordinator gave several interviews for national media, including to CBC Radio's *The Current* (about Bayer's takeover of Monsanto) and Global TV News (about the GM apple).
- » CBAN was quoted in stories in *The Globe and Mail*, *Macleans*, *The London Free Press*, *The National Observer*, *The National Post*, *The Ottawa Citizen*, *The Western Producer*, *The Hill Times*, *Embassy Magazine*, *The Epoch Times*, *The Guardian (UK)*, and *Global News online*.
- » Our opinion piece "Ottawa should evaluate Canada's experience with GM crops" was published in the magazine *Power & Influence* published by *The Hill Times* in Ottawa.
- » We published articles that shared our *GMO Inquiry* results in many magazines and newspapers, including *Rural Delivery*, *Watershed Sentinel*, *The Hill Times* and in two German publications!
- » We wrote articles on the GM apple, government regulation, and GM foods for HANS, BC Organic Grower, New Roots Herbal's in-house magazine called *Flourish*, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' *Monitor*.
- » We regularly provided background information for journalists from various media outlets.

TRACKING CORPORATE PUBLIC RELATIONS

C BAN's critique of the video "License to Farm" was covered by CBC which described it as: "heralded as a weapon to combat the anti-GMO movement, while also being criticized as insulting propaganda." The video was funded by SaskCanola, the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan and launched a new national campaign to gain public trust in GMOs and pesticides.

CBAN worked with groups across the country to track the development of the industry's new communications strategy which culminated in a "Public Trust Summit" in Ottawa. The industry Summit was advertised as "a chance to learn how to more effectively reach consumers with the right messages and messengers" because too many people are raising concerns about GM foods.

CBAN's effectiveness in monitoring, providing research, and encouraging debate spurred the biotech industry to coordinate a national PR response to gain public trust. They call this the "social licence" campaign.



Some of the "Modified" film crew! Canadian filmmaker Aube Giroux with cameraman at the CBAN office in Ottawa.

Some of our events in 2016

- » CBAN member group No More GMOs Toronto pulled off another vibrant Farm-to-Fork Festival with other local groups.
- » CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt joined the filmmaker of the feature film “Consumed” on a panel at the Reelworld Film Festival in Toronto.
- » Lucy also spoke at the Canadian Health Food Association conference in Vancouver and the farmer conference Organic Connections in Regina.
- » We organized many workshops with allies at the World Social Forum in Montreal and at the Food Secure Canada Assembly in Toronto.

In 2016, we also worked hard to prepare our **new website** for its 2017 launch! You can now see it live at **www.cban.ca**.



CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt spoke to retailers and food companies at the Canadian Health Food Association conference.



CBAN staff Lucy Sharratt and Taarini Chopra tabled at many events. Pictured together at the Guelph Organic Conference in Ontario.



CBAN staff with Thibault Rehn of the Quebec network Vigilance OGM, a CBAN member group. We presented together in Montreal for the World Social Forum and at the Food Secure Canada Assembly in Toronto.

Thank you to everyone
who donated in 2016!

Thank you to
our funders!

The Big Carrot Natural Market, Toronto

Booch Organic Kombucha

Canadian Health Food Association

Carrot Cache

De Dell Seeds

Inter Pares

Julie Daniluk R.H.N., Daniluk Consulting

Mumm's Sprouting Seeds, Saskatchewan

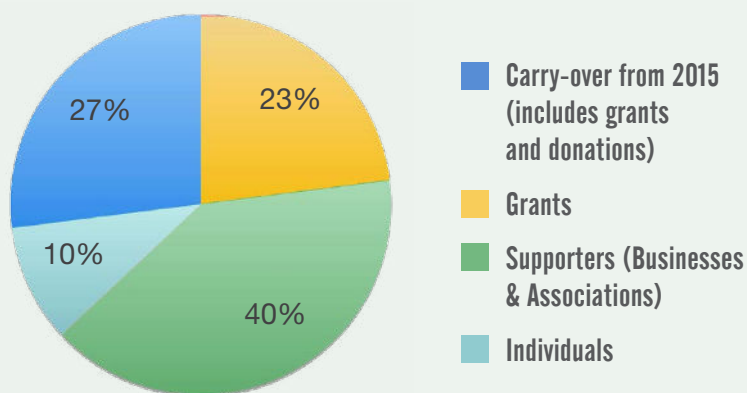
New Roots Herbal

Nature's Path Foods

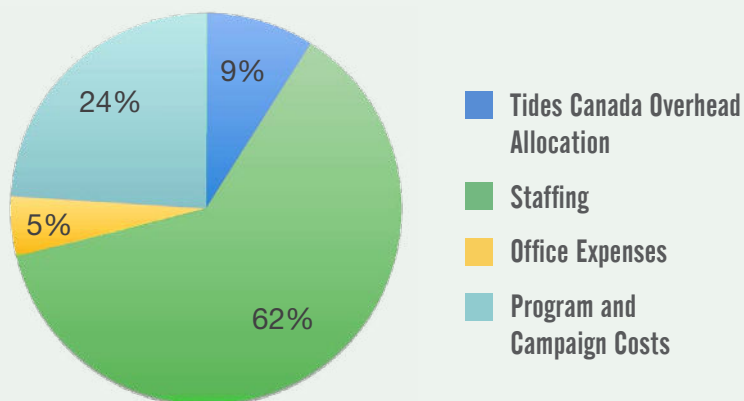
Patagonia

FINANCES

2016 CBAN Revenue \$207,224



2016 CBAN Expenses \$164,149



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 2015 overhead costs was carried forward to 2016, resulting in a slight reduction in overhead allocation from total 2016 revenue. Tides Canada has full fiduciary and governance responsibility for CBAN.

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) brings together 16 organizations to research, monitor and raise awareness about issues relating to genetic engineering in food and farming. CBAN members include farmer associations, environmental and social justice organizations, and regional coalitions of grassroots groups.

CBAN.CA