



CBAN ANNUAL REPORT



2018

RESEARCH EDUCATE MOBILIZE CBAN.CA

CAMPAIGNS



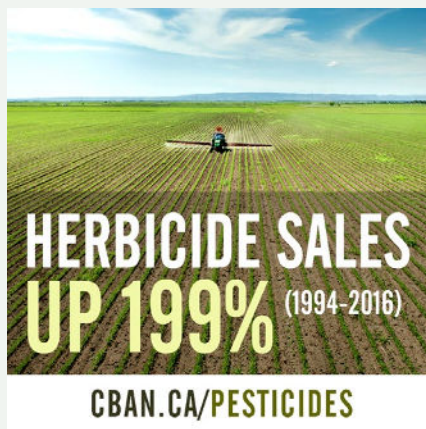
Panelists from "Phasing Out Pesticides is Urgent: GMOs and the Pesticide Treadmill" (from left to right) Ralston Maise, Justicia for Migrant Workers; Mariam Sow, ENDA Pronat, Senegal; Lucy Sharratt, CBAN; Leon Ferguson, Justicia for Migrant Workers; Eric Chaurette, Inter Pares; Karen Ross, Equiterre.

PESTICIDES AND GMOS

In 2018, we published a new factsheet called "Genetically Modified Crops and Herbicides" which updated our research on herbicide use that we first published in our 2015 *GMO Inquiry* report "Are GM Crops Better for the Environment?" CBAN created a version of the factsheet for consumers and one for farmers, and we set up a new page on our website:

www.cban.ca/pesticides.

We also organized a panel event on herbicide issues at the Food Secure Canada Assembly with Justicia for Migrant Workers, Inter Pares and Equiterre, featuring Mariam Sow who is Director of the farmer advocacy group ENDA Pronat in Senegal.



LABELLING

In December, CBAN evaluated the newly published U.S. "National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard" rules as confusing because they will mean some, but not all, GM foods will be labelled in the U.S. – and they will be called "bioengineered".

- We issued a press release, provided a summary analysis for the public and media, and posted an online action for the public to email the Minister of Health.
- CBAN also wrote to the Minister of Health with our concerns about the U.S. rules.
- Earlier in the year, CBAN sent comments on the proposed rules to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

GENE EDITING

While there was a lot of hype about the potential uses for new genetic engineering techniques referred to as “gene editing”, like CRISPR, little attention was being paid to the uncertainties. In September, CBAN joined an international conference in Europe to examine the techniques and their potential risks.

In September, CBAN Coordinator Lucy Sharratt participated in the panel show *The Agenda with Steve Paikin* from public broadcaster TVOntario (TVO), to discuss new genetic engineering techniques. During the show, Lucy pointed out that the other three panel members all receive funding from the companies Bayer and Syngenta. CBAN had informed the show about this shared funding in advance of the program, and had repeatedly requested that the funding sources be disclosed to the audience.



CBAN Coordinator, Lucy Sharratt, spoke to European politicians about Canadian regulation of gene editing techniques at the *European GM-Free Regions Conference* in Berlin in March. Credit: Sanjay Kumar.



CBAN's Coordinator was called on to discuss gene editing, facing three panel members with funding from Bayer and Syngenta. Details are posted at www.cban.ca/TVOpanel



GM FISH

Over 2,000 people sent a letter from CBAN's website asking for a full risk assessment of the GM Atlantic salmon. This action added yet another voice to years of communication on the need for a stronger risk assessment, following the 2015 ruling in a court case brought forward by CBAN member Ecology Action Centre, with Living Oceans Society. In 2018, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change confirmed to CBAN and the media that regulators would conduct a new risk assessment before the company AquaBounty would be permitted to produce GM salmon at Rollo Bay in P.E.I.

In December, CBAN coordinated a joint letter signed by 21 environmental groups and 7 seafood companies, calling on the federal environment minister to ensure precautionary, transparent regulation of GM fish and establish mandatory GM food labelling.

AquaBounty's financial statements stated that the GM fish company would be paying 10% royalties to the federal government on one of their products. After CBAN brought attention to this arrangement, AquaBounty specified that the product in question was not the GM salmon itself



In September, residents of Charlottetown, P.E.I., took to the streets to protest the GM salmon. This photo was published in *The Guardian* newspaper in P.E.I.

but a related technology. When CBAN wrote to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development to ask which product is subject to these royalty repayments, we were told to file an *Access to Information* request to seek this information.

CBAN also filed a complaint to the Competition Bureau alleging misleading advertising on AquaBounty's website. The complaint was forwarded to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, which concluded that our complaint could not be investigated because AquaBounty's website is U.S.-based.

RAPID RESPONSE

Our on-going, in-depth research and analysis allow us to quickly respond to the latest developments.

GM wheat escape:

Thanks to extensive and long-term research on GM wheat and our strong connections with farming groups, CBAN was able to respond to the Alberta discovery of several escaped GM wheat plants. We put out a press release and two media background documents as events developed, and we were widely quoted in the farm press. We tracked the incident and provided up-to-date information for the public, media and farming communities. We also convened national conference calls with farming organizations to discuss the details and implications of this incident. We also initiated action to support the National Farmers Union call for a ban on open-air field tests. www.cban.ca/wheat

Golden Rice approval:

Health Canada approved the genetically engineered Vitamin-A enhanced “Golden Rice” in 2018, even though it is not intended for consumption in Canada. We shared information with farmer groups in Asia who expressed concern that the Canadian approval would be used to pressure their own governments to approve Golden Rice. CBAN has been tracking, researching and sharing information about Golden Rice for years: www.cban.ca/GoldenRice

Corporate mergers:

In 2018, CBAN was interviewed by Canada’s Competition Bureau about our concerns over the merger between Monsanto and Bayer. However, the merger was approved later in the year. www.cban.ca/corporatecontrol



MEDIA

Throughout the year CBAN was quoted in mainstream press (including *The Globe and Mail*, *CBC*, and *CTV*) as well as across the farm press and seafood industry press.

CBAN also provided background information to many investigative journalists and media outlets including: *BBC*, *PBS*, *Netflix*, *MacLean's* magazine, *The Walrus*, *VICE* magazine, and the Quebec show *Semaines Vert*.

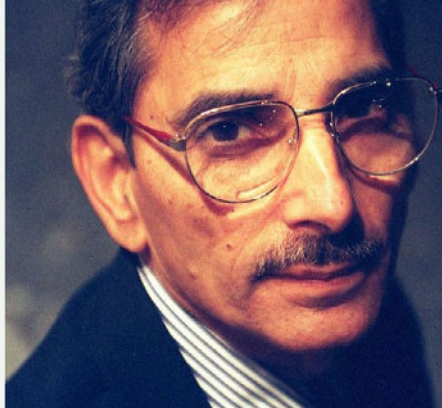
In addition to appearing on TVO, CBAN's Coordinator gave multiple interviews on university radio stations in Winnipeg, Montreal and Ottawa

Publications

- Factsheet: Genetic Engineering will not "Feed the World"
- Farmer Brief: Stop Contamination in Canada
- Factsheet: Genetically Modified Crops and Herbicides
- Updated Guide: Identifying and Avoiding GM Sweet Corn Seed in Canada: Grower Guide
- Updated Guide: How to Avoid Eating GM Salmon: Consumer Guide

Articles

- "Government Getting Royalties from GM Salmon Sales" in the *Watershed Sentinel*, BC
- "A fishy return on public investment: The policy collision over genetically modified salmon" in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives magazine *The Monitor*
- "Setting up a spiral of GMO contamination: Legalizing "Low Level Presence" of Unapproved GMOs" in *BC Organic Grower* magazine
- "World's First Genetically Modified Fish" in *Pet Connection* magazine.



IN MEMORIAM: DR. SHIV CHOPRA, Public Servant

In 2018, we mourned the death and celebrated the life and lasting contributions of Dr. Shiv Chopra, a strong and vibrant champion of science in the service of the public good. Dr. Chopra defied instructions from his employers at Health Canada not to speak publicly about his concerns over Monsanto's genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone, and about the pressure he was under at the department.

"I was speaking out, but it was my duty to speak out."

– Dr. Shiv Chopra, 2017



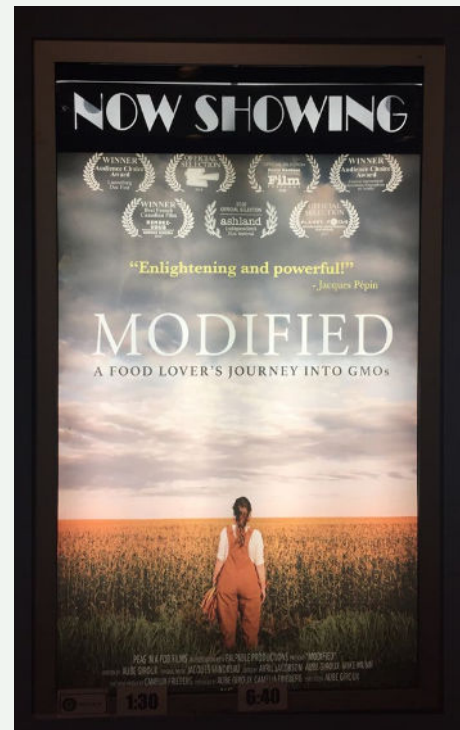
EVENTS

The Canadian documentary *Modified* features clips from an interview with CBAN's Coordinator Lucy Sharratt. In 2018, Lucy spoke at five screenings of the film in Ontario, including one on Parliament Hill for Members of Parliament.

Lucy was invited to the farmer-organized conference "Food Talks" in Whitehorse, Yukon where she responded to questions after a screening of the film *Modified*.



Lucy Sharratt, CBAN Coordinator with Aube Grioux, Filmmaker outside The Bytowne Theatre in Ottawa, May 27, 2018.



Lucy also spoke via Skype to multiple high school classes at a school in Alberta.

Wow, that was awesome!! Thank you so much for your time, expertise, and patience...The students really benefitted from the information you provided and your thorough responses to their questions. What an excellent learning experience for them!

— Grade 9 teacher, Alberta

Some Feedback to CBAN in 2018

Keep up the good work protecting our environment and speaking for the people!

Thanks for your advocacy! Keep up your good works, and thank you.

The CBAN sites are the best! Most convenient, most needed info, easiest to use.

Thanks for putting documents like these together, we need the expertise.

Thank you and everyone who contributes to CBAN for all that you do.

Thank you so much for the work you are doing. I will make a small donation to the link you have provided to help you keep up this important work.

Thank you for your continued work in staying on top of all of this, and providing such clear critique to the issues. You are awesome!!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS IN 2018

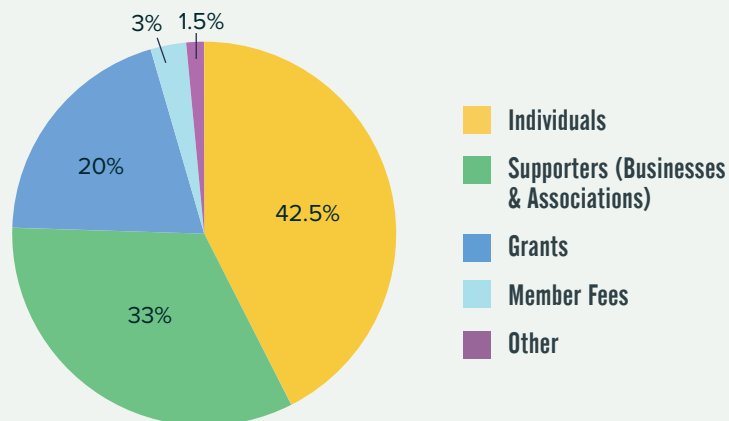
The Bernard and Edith Ennis Foundation
The Big Carrot Natural Market, Toronto
Booch Organic Kombucha
Canadian Health Food Association
Community Natural Foods, Calgary
Inter Pares
McGregor-Sinclair Ecology and Peace Fund
Mumm's Sprouting Seeds
Nature's Path Foods
New Roots Herbal
Shuswap Seed Savers
Sunnyside Natural Market, Calgary

Thank you to the 121 individuals who donated to support our work in 2018!

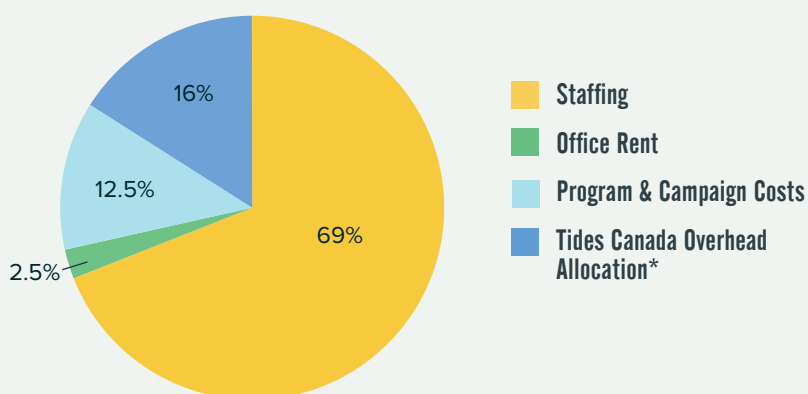
We are deeply grateful to **MR. WILLIAM YUK SHING HO** who left an extremely generous bequest to CBAN in his will. We are inspired by his gift and are honoured to continue our work with the support of his intention.

FINANCES

2018 CBAN Revenue \$203,616



2018 CBAN Expenses \$127,440



*Tides Canada Overhead Allocation: CBAN is a project on Tides Canada's shared platform which provides governance, human resources, financial, and grant management. A portion of our revenue - 10% of revenue from individual donations and 12% from grants - is allocated to overhead to support these costs. In 2018, we received a generous bequest and so the overhead allocation from that revenue appears as a bigger percent of our expenses than usual. 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 is a project on Tides Canada's shared platform, which is a registered charity in Canada.
www.tidescanada.org/our-solutions/shared-platform/

CBAN MEMBERS:

Canadian Organic Growers, Check Your Head, Council of Canadians, Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario, Ecology Action Centre, Growers of Organic Food Yukon, No More GMOs Toronto, Greenpeace Canada, Inter Pares, National Farmers Union, GMO Free PEI, Organic Agriculture Protection Fund of Saskatchewan, GE Free BC, Union Paysanne, USC Canada, Vigilance OGM.