



CBAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

CBAN.CA



RESEARCH EDUCATE MOBILIZE

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, CBAN published two major strategic reports in 2020. The pandemic halted our public education campaign “Why Your Food Choices Matter” but only after major outreach milestones had already been reached. This campaign was founded on personal interactions between farmers and consumers, and at local stores and events. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

“ We continue to be amazed at the excellent work carried out by CBAN despite very challenging times.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Why Your Food Choices Matter

In January 2020 we launched our new pamphlet “Why Your Food Choices Matter”. We distributed **15,700 copies** to farmers, consumers and health food stores across Canada before the March lockdown halted distribution. We successfully distributed all of the pamphlets printed by that time - two print-runs!

Orders came from diverse communities in eight provinces and the Yukon, including from small-scale farmers; independent

food stores and coffee shops; local chefs; community garden groups; local environmental and food groups; seed saver groups; farm workers and other individuals in rural and urban communities.

Before travel stopped, we also shared the pamphlet at two farmer conferences - the BC Certified Organic Conference & the Guelph Organic Conference in Ontario - and at the Canadian Health Food Association tradeshow in Vancouver.



Feedback from the public:

“Food choices matter” is a wonderful brochure. Concise and to the point. And short enough for most people to read!!!... Please let us know how we can grow awareness that people’s food choices will transform the healing of our planet.

Such valuable information needs to be shared with the masses.

Thank you so much for providing this educational pamphlet.

Will put them to good use. It is the most succinct message I’ve seen in years. Very handy to have with me wherever I am. Pat yourself on the back!

PRESENTATIONS

- » *Where is genetic engineering heading?* BC Certified Organic Conference, March 1
- » *Market Status of GMOs*, Canadian Health Food Association, May 6
- » *The Truth about GMOs and Industrial Agriculture*, June 19, Fridays for Future, Bruce Grey Owen Sound
- » *GMOs 2.0: What is Gene Editing and What are the Risks*, Canadian Health Food Association, June 24
- » *Science on Tap: Genetically Modified Food For Thought*, Telus World of Science, Dec 8

“ You were doing such a fantastic job. The CBAN pages were about the best written and organized of any info I got from anywhere.”

RESEARCH

Genome Editing

In July, we published the major report “Genome Editing in Food and Farming: Risks and Unexpected Consequences” along with a three-page “Introduction to Genome Editing” – in English and French. The report gives basic information and analysis to inform the public and provides a foundation for debate and further research.

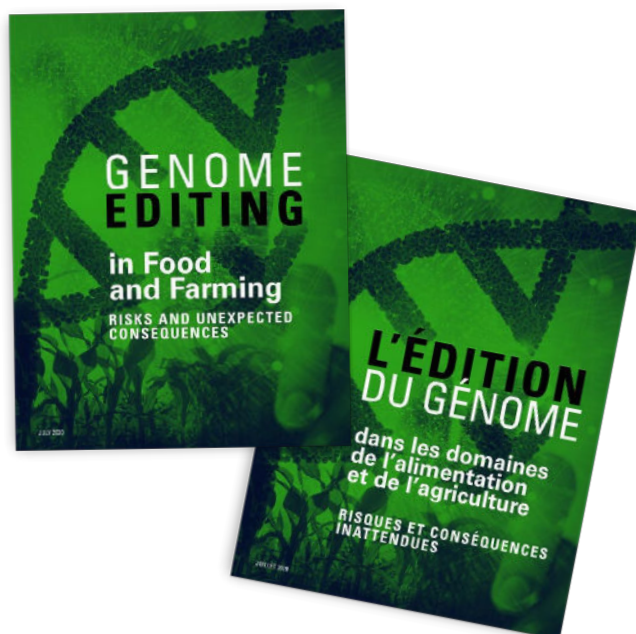
We also wrote articles on genome editing for the BC Organic Grower magazine; and for the newsletters of the National Farmers’ Union, the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund of SaskOrganics, and the Canadian Organic Trade Association. We also published an article in the Healthier By Nature site of the Canadian Health Food Association.

Later in the year, Health Canada announced its 2021 plans to change regulatory guidance for genome edited GMOs.

www.cban.ca/GenomeEditingReport

“ I can’t recommend CBAN’s reports highly enough, they are always thorough and meticulously researched.”

– Aube Giroux, Canadian filmmaker
www.modifiedthefilm.com



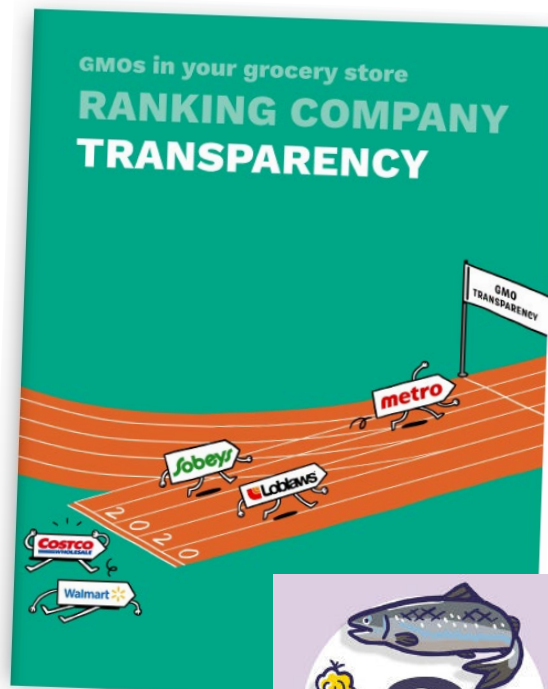
GMOs in Your Grocery Store

At the end of the year, CBAN and our Quebec member group Vigilance OGM co-published the report “GMOs in Your Grocery Store: Ranking Company Transparency” in English and French, to report the status of whole GM foods in Canada’s largest grocery chains. It included a ranking of grocery chain transparency on selling GM fruits, vegetables, and fish. The report also provided information summaries on GM salmon, sweet corn, potatoes, and apples, along with basic facts about GM crops.

For the report, CBAN and *Vigilance OGM* sent questionnaires to the five major grocery chains in Canada: Loblaw, Sobeys, Metro, Costco, and Walmart (These five companies control over 80% of grocery sales in Canada). The report ranks their answers.

The report also includes a questionnaire and background document that consumers can bring to their local stores.

www.cban.ca/grocerychainranking



GM Foods in Canada

Most of the genetically modified foods on the market are GM corn, canola and soy, in processed food ingredients and used as animal feed.

GM Foods	Where	Why
Corn	In processed food and animal feed, and a small amount of sweet corn	Herbicide tolerance and insect resistance
Canola	As oil in processed foods and for animal feed	Herbicide tolerance
Soy	In processed foods	Herbicide tolerance
Sugar Beet	Processed into sugar	Herbicide tolerance
Alfalfa	For animal feed only	Herbicide tolerance and low-lignin
Salmon (Atlantic)	Farmed salmon	Faster growth
Apple	Sliced apples in food service	Non-browning
Papaya	Imported from the us or China	Virus-resistant
Squash	Imported from the us only	Virus-resistant

“ Thank you Lucy, for all that you and your team at CBAN do, to hold all of the various stakeholders to count and mobilize Canadian citizens to take action to help keep GMOs out of fields and off our plates.

Thank
you

TO OUR
DONORS
IN 2020

The Bernard and Edith Ennis Foundation

The Big Carrot Natural Market, Toronto

<https://thebigcarrot.ca/>

Eatmore Sprouts & Greens Ltd.

<https://eatmoresprouts.com/>

GE Free Kamloops

<https://www.facebook.com/GEFreeKamloops/>

Inter Pares

<https://interpares.ca/>

**Ken and Debbie Rubin Public Interest
Advocacy Fund**

<https://kenrubin.ca/advocacy-fund/>

Lush Handmade Cosmetics Inc.

<https://www.lush.ca/en/home>

**McGregor-Sinclair Ecology
and Peace Fund**

<https://www.ocf-fco.ca/funds/en-mcgregor-sinclair-ecology-and-peace-fund/>

Nature's Path Foods

<https://www.naturespath.com/en-ca/>

New Roots Herbal Inc.

<https://newrootsherbal.com/>

**Organic Connections Conference
& Trade Show**

<https://www.organicconnections.ca/>

SaskOrganics

<http://saskorganics.org/>

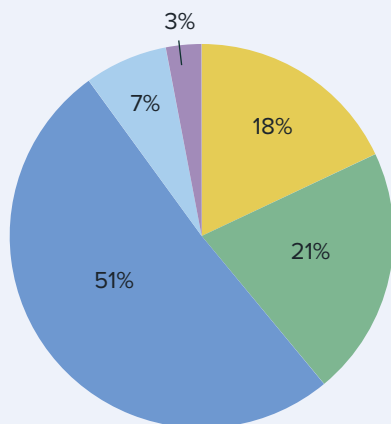
Sunnyside Natural Market, Calgary

<https://www.sunnysidemarket.ca/>

**Thank you to all the individuals
who donated to support our work
in 2020!**

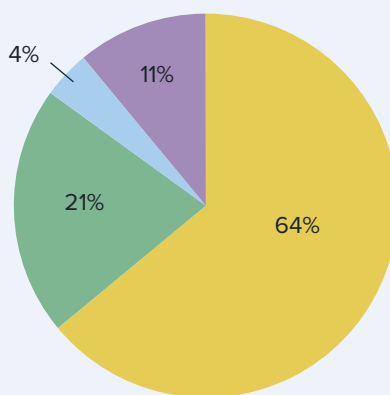
FINANCES

2020 CBAN Revenue \$148,917



- Individuals
- Supporters (Businesses & Associations)
- Grants
- Government*
- Member Fees

2020 CBAN Expenses \$144,423



- Staffing
- Program & Campaign Costs
- Office expenses
- MakeWay Core Supports Contribution**

*Funds provided by the Government of Canada to MakeWay through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.

**MakeWay Core Supports Contribution: CBAN is a project on MakeWay'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. MakeWay has full fiduciary and governance responsibility for CBAN

The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) brings together 16 groups 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 of MakeWay's shared platform. MakeWay Charitable Society (previously named Tides Canada) is a registered Canadian charity.

CBAN MEMBERS

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



@cban.canadian.biotechnology.action.network