

CBAN

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

CBAN.CA



RESEARCH EDUCATE MOBILIZE

“Canada has groups lobbying the government against GE animals. Most notable is the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, which has organic and ecological farming groups, environmental groups, and international anti-GE groups amongst its members.”

– United States Department of Agriculture, *Agricultural Biotechnology Annual: Canada*, December 18, 2024.

GM SALMON

After over twenty years of protest, we stopped the GM salmon.

On December 11, 2024, the company AquaBounty officially announced that it would not be producing any more genetically modified (GM or genetically engineered) salmon and that it was selling its last working facility, in Prince Edward Island (PEI).

The [announcement](#) came just weeks after CBAN’s press release “Federal and PEI Governments Prop Up Failing GM Salmon Company” calling attention to announcements of 2024 federal and provincial funding for the company, and just days after we sent a letter objecting to this funding and asking for an investigation into government decision-making over continued grants and loans to the company.



**AQUABOUNTY
SELLING
CANADIAN
OPERATIONS.**

**GM
SALMON
PRODUCTION
ENDED.**

CBAN.CA/FISH



Thank you to everyone who took action and supported the campaign.

Protests against AquaBounty's plans for GM salmon started in 2001 and continued for over two decades thanks to CBAN and the persistence of local activists in PEI, along with actions from environmental and consumer groups across Canada and the US.



GMO Free PEI is a CBAN member group and we particularly want to thank three dedicated advocates who have been key to the life of this coalition and its ongoing resistance: Sharon Labchuk of Earth Action PEI; Mary Boyd (Order of Canada) of the Mackillop Centre for Social Justice; and Leo Broderick of The Council of Canadians PEI Chapter. Their picture, above, was taken outside AquaBounty's Bay Fortune facility in PEI in 2015.

"We're glad to see the back of this company after over twenty years of our protests against genetically modified food," said Sharon Labchuk of GMO Free PEI.

You deserve a big Thanks for all you did and for your faithfulness in sending information, analysis and documents.

– Mary Boyd, GMO Free PEI

Thank you so much for your years of work for CBAN. You have continued to create public awareness of the dangers of genetic engineering, and you have been able to make change to legislation and to practice. Congratulations on your victory in getting rid of the GE Salmon plant. It's all due to your clear information and your persistence.

Very important work accomplished, with some significant victories and lots to work on in the coming year as well!

TRADE

In 2024, CBAN worked in solidarity with the people of Mexico in defense of Mexico's new ban on GM corn for food. The US and Canada challenged Mexico's ban using the Canada-US-Mexico Trade Agreement (CUSMA). Canada does not export any corn to Mexico.

We worked alongside the Trade Justice Group of the Northumberland Chapter of **The Council of Canadians**. We also coordinated with groups in the US and Mexico to support the right of all countries to determine their own policies on GMOs.

In January, the Canadian and US governments blocked CBAN from officially participating in the trade dispute's comment period, but CBAN continued to publish our analysis, in English, French and Spanish. A Mexican translation company donated translation of some of CBAN's key documents so that the support and analysis from Canada could be shared in Mexico:

- Factsheet: [Canada and the US Challenge Mexico's Restrictions on GM Corn](#), March.
- Report: [Response to Canada's Arguments Against Mexico's GM Corn Restrictions](#), April.
- Article: [Biotech Winner Takes All](#), Watershed Sentinel, May.
- Briefing: [Canada & US vs. Mexico's Ban on GM Corn: The CUSMA trade dispute champions the biotech industry over food sovereignty](#), January.

We also supported the Mexican case by publishing new information about the impacts and risks of GM corn:

- [Genetically engineered Bt insect-resistant corn poses human health risks](#), May 2024
- [Genetically engineered crops have increased herbicide use](#), May 2024

In addition, CBAN presented at an online global webinar co-organized with Mexican and US organizations.



SUPPORT MEXICO'S RIGHT TO RESTRICT GM CORN



Sign in solidarity CBAN.CA/TRADEACTION

On December 20, 2024, the trade dispute panel ruled against Mexico. This outcome demonstrates how free trade agreements can be used to overthrow democratic decisions for corporate interests.

However, Mexico's existing ban on the cultivation of GM corn, to protect native corn from GM contamination, was not challenged and has since been enshrined in the Mexican Constitution.

"This is great, and I shared it with colleagues in Mexico's national science agency. They were very impressed with your summary of the science. They will be happy to have a version in Spanish."

Buen día, nos sumamos a la felicitación. Es un excelente artículo que aporta muchos elementos importantes. Gracias por compartirlo. Saludos fraternos

"Good morning, we would like to add our congratulations. It is an excellent article that contributes many important elements. Thank you for sharing it. Best regards."

"Thanks for all the research and writing you have been doing.... it is indeed a privilege to collaborate with you and CBAN."

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

In 2024, we ran a national online book club to discuss our relationship with nature and how it could be impacted by genetic engineering and GE trees in particular. In the series, we hosted four events starting with **a discussion with Dr. Suzanne Simard**, author of *Finding the Mother Tree*! We also hosted an event to discuss the novel *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, with our special guest Ron Casier from the Canadian Chestnut Council, and finally we discussed *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We ended the year with a webinar on GE trees called *Global Insights and Action* with CBAN's Coordinator and Anne Petermann from the Global Justice Ecology Project. Thanks to a generous donation we were able to send over 40 books to participants with low or fixed incomes.

“This is so fab! I love that it is online so many more will be able to attend. Thank you for setting this up and for all the other good work you do!!”



Dr. Suzanne Simard at CBAN's "LeafyReads" book club event



CBAN co-hosted a public event on GM wheat in Saskatoon in November.

Throughout 2024, CBAN's Coordinator spoke at national events - to farmers, consumers nutritionists, students and food businesses, including:

- *Organic Connections* farmer conference, Saskatoon.
- *Canadian Holistic Nutrition Conference*, Toronto.
- Canadian Heath Food Association conference in Toronto, with nutritionist Julie Daniluk, in a special event called "Will GMOs Nourish Us?"
- And at classes at York University, Bishop's University and the culinary school at George Brown College.

We also provided information tables on GMOs at farmer conferences in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

In early 2024 we continued to distribute our special edition newspapers to farmer conferences and communities. We distributed 9000 newspapers in total!





PRESS RELEASES

I get a lot of newsletters and usually skim through them skipping content. I read this whole letter. Thanks for keeping it informative and concise.

Just wanted to pass along some nice feedback from one of our members that received the Investigating GE newspaper in the mail. He said it was “just fantastic, very eye opening, and to please give the people involved in the research a HUGE PAT ON THE BACK.”

The newspaper does a great job of covering the different aspects of the GE issue, so I'd be happy to distribute a few more at our farmers markets if you still have them available.

In 2024, CBAN's campaigner Kaitlyn Duthie-Kannikkatt left us to be an instructor at the University of Winnipeg's Urban and Inner-City Studies program, and we welcomed our new campaigner Fionna Tough!



We honour the life of Adriano Valentin who died in March 2024. He was a supporter of CBAN since 2015; in solidarity, he left a bequest to CBAN in his will. He was particularly concerned about corporate influence on government and the willingness of government to abdicate its responsibilities to the public and the environment, instead providing privilege and free rein to corporate biotechnology interests. Thank you, Adriano, for your commitment and generosity.

Canada and US Governments Shut Down Ability of Canadian NGOs to Comment in Trade Dispute Over Mexico's GM Corn Ban

January 9, 2024.

Canada argues against Mexico's restrictions on GM corn

April 9, 2024.

Federal government removes transparency and oversight from more gene edited products in our food system

May 8, 2024

GM Fish Factory in P.E.I. for Sale: Taxpayers Should Get Their Money Back

October 2, 2024.

Map unveils the lobbying practices of the pesticide and GMO industry in Canada,

November 28, 2024.

Federal and PEI Governments Prop Up Failing GM Salmon Company

December 2, 2024.

GM Salmon Company AquaBounty Shuts Down Operations

December 12, 2024.

Trade dispute panel decision forces Mexico to end GM corn restrictions

December 23, 2024.

MORE FEEDBACK

I just listened to your recent interview with CBC. You did an excellent job of explaining, in clear and understandable language... Thanks for your hard work and steadfast dedication.

Keep up the good work CBAN. Thank you for your hard work. I'll be donating again this year.

These issues are so important!!! Glad for your work!

It is really nice to get information from you. It is really detailed and helpful.

Keep up the great work!

I cherish your dedication and hard-fought success in the work that you are doing. I see acknowledgement for having had the right approaches as even conventional farmers are realizing that commerce has trumped developments over genetic protection or real genetic improvement. I wish you luck and success in the important work that you are doing.

Thanks very much for taking the time to reply – I trust CBAN more than most organizations with pretty-sounding names! Keep up your great work and all my best.

Thank you for all of your diligent work.

Thanks for this and all your hard work.

Thank you once again for your diligence on my/our behalf on a subtle but IMPORTANT biotech issue. – Brewster Kneen, food systems analyst and author

Well done CBAN!! I send my congratulations on your passion and persistence.

So good to learn about the good works that you and your team are doing!

Your action page is looking great! We are so pleased. You guys are the best. We like the Instagram too. – Martin J. Frid, Consumers Union of Japan

Your dedication and continuing work on behalf of all of us is outstanding by any measure.

Thanks for helping us get motivated to be more organized.

You are amazing and appreciated.

Thank You!

TO OUR FUNDERS IN 2024

including donating businesses
and organizations:

Alberta Organic Producers Association

Canadian Health Food Association

www.chfa.ca

Ceres Trust

www.cerestrust.org

The Edith and Bernard Ennis Foundation

GEKKO Foundation

Inter Pares

www.interpares.ca

MakeWay Foundation

Nature's Path Foods

New Roots Herbal Inc.

www.newrootsherbal.com

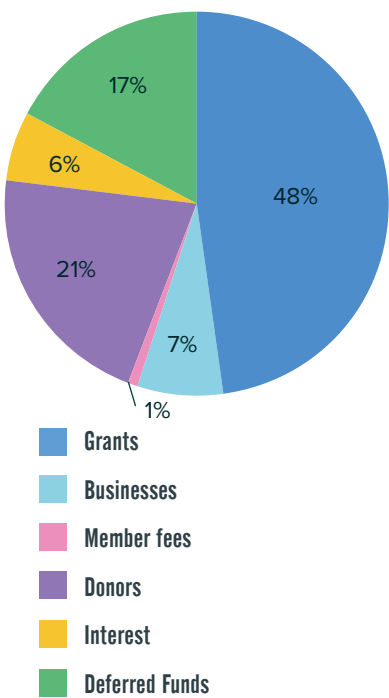
SaskOrganics

www.saskorganics.org

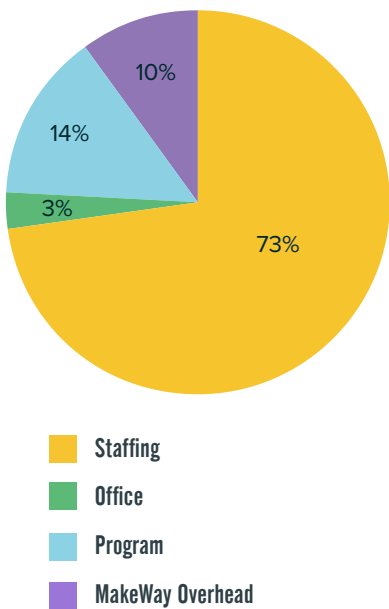
**Thank you to all the
individuals who donated
in 2024.**

FINANCES

2024 CBAN Revenue \$226,723



2024 CBAN Expenses \$226,723



*MakeWay Core Supports Contribution: CBAN is a project on the shared platform of the MakeWay Charitable Society which provides governance, human resources, financial, and grant management. 12% of revenue is allocated 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 the shared platform of 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