



ANNUAL REPORT



RESEARCH
EDUCATE
MOBILIZE

CBAN.CA

ON THE COVER

In November, CBAN organized a two-day strategic planning meeting with member groups from across the country.

Pictured from left to right,: Jim Thomas, Scan the Horizon; Sarah Marquis, National Farmers Union; Laura Sewell, SeedChange; Dru Oja Jay, The Council of Canadians; Mary Lou McDonald, No More GMOs Toronto; Karen Murchison, Canadian Organic Growers; Eric Chaurette, Inter Pares; Thibault Rehn, Vigilance OGM; Aabir Dey, SeedChange; Taarini Chopra, CBAN Staff; Cady Foreman, National Farmers Union; Laure Mabileau, Vigilance OGM; Lucy Sharratt, CBAN Staff, Cathy Holtslander, National Farmers Union; Beatrice Olivastri, Friends of the Earth Canada; Katie Fettes, Canadian Organic Growers. Behind the camera: Fionna Tough, CBAN Staff.



IN 2025 we started to a national campaign to stop a wave of unregulated, unlabelled genetically modified fruits and vegetables from entering our food system and seed supply.

We ran community outreach and public education activities across Canada, effectively lobbied food companies, and published two unique reports for the public and food industry.

We stalled the introduction of Bayer's genetically modified (GM or genetically engineered) salad greens, and alerted farmers and gardeners to unlabelled GM tomato seeds coming to the market.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES



196

Distributed information at
196 community events.



6000

Distributed 6000 flyers in total.



10

Hosted information tables at
10 community and farmer events.



2

Published 2 unique reports.



2

Presented at 2 farmer
conferences.



WHY?

Until now, genetic modification in our diets has been dominated by processed food ingredients from GM corn, GM canola, GM soy and GM sugar beet, but this could change soon. Biotechnology companies are actively testing the market to launch GM fresh fruits and vegetables, and, **for the first time, GM seeds targeting home gardeners.**

What's also new is that most future genetically modified organisms (GMOs) produced with gene editing will enter the market without any government safety assessments or notification to the government or public – these will be **new unregulated, unknown GM foods and seeds.**

In 2025, we stalled the North American market entry of GM salad greens from Bayer, the biggest seed company in the world (after acquiring Monsanto in 2018).

We also confirmed that Bayer is removing GM squash from the North American market for 2026.

However, in October, Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency approved a GM "Purple Tomato" for eating and growing, with the company planning to sell small seed packets to gardeners. We issued a national alert and in two weeks 163 farmers from BC and Ontario had signed our statement opposing the sale of GM seeds to small growers, market gardeners and home gardeners.

- » We distributed **3500 copies** of our "**Protect Our Seeds From New GMOs: No GMO Salad**" flyers to **150 Seedy Saturday community seed fairs across the country and 38 additional community events.**
- » We also attended three industry conferences: the **Canadian Produce Marketing Association**, the **Canadian Greenhouse Conference**, and the **Ontario Potato Conference.**



LABELLING

In September, we launched an official Parliamentary e-petition for mandatory labelling of GM foods. 4152 people signed it via the House of Commons website. The petition was presented in the House of Commons by the Bloc Québécois agriculture critic on December 2 and CBAN participated in a press conference with MPs on Parliament Hill.

CBAN's member group *Vigilance OGM* commissioned a new national poll that found **83% of Canadians want mandatory labelling**.



Thibault Rehn of Vigilance OGM, Lucy Sharratt of CBAN and Katie Fettes of the Canadian Organic Growers joined Member of Parliament and Bloc Québécois agriculture critic Yves Perron on Parliament Hill to demand mandatory labelling.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

In February, we launched our [No GMO Salad campaign](#) at a **public education event** organized in partnership with community food security groups in Sudbury, Ontario.

In March–April, we organized a series of **three online webinars for environmental and social justice organizations** featuring international experts. **80 people participated from 45 groups, including from the US, Europe and Mexico.** The series was designed to educate Canadian environmental groups and community leaders on three technological developments: gene editing, RNAi pesticides, and the convergence of Artificial Intelligence and genetic engineering.

We also distributed information across the country to consumers and farmers

For consumers:

- In the summer, **we distributed 2500 copies** of our revised information brochure "[Your Food Choices in 2025](#)". Farmers shared it at farmers' markets and we also shared it through food co-ops, local food stores, community events, and Indigenous youth and food outreach programs in Ontario.
- We also staffed **information tables at five events and two grocery stores**, in Ontario and Nova Scotia.

For farmers:

We staffed information tables at **three farmer conferences** in BC and Ontario and presented at **two**.



PUBLIC EDUCATION CONT.

Research and Reports

» Because we achieved such strong concrete results in our pressure campaign on GM salad greens, we decided to share the outcomes with the public in a report which we could also use to pressure food companies. In July, we released a *No GMO Salad Update and Action Report*. We sent the report to retailers, food companies and produce industry associations.



» In October, we released the report *Gene-Edited Fruits and Vegetables: The Threat of New GMOs in Canada*. There is no other place that Canadians can get accurate information about GM foods on the market.



» We also piloted a new factsheet "*Gene Editing is Genetic Engineering*" that we used in our communication with food companies and sent to every Member of Parliament.

PRESS RELEASES

Farmers warn home gardeners about genetically engineered vegetable seeds coming soon

December 16

U.S. Appeals Court Ruling on Labelling of Genetically Modified Foods Adds Pressure on Canadian Regulators for Greater Transparency

November 3

83% of Canadians Want Mandatory Labelling of Genetically Modified Foods, Finds New Poll

October 30

Three Genetically Engineered Fruits and Vegetables Sold in Canada

October 1

Petition Demands Mandatory Labelling of Genetically Engineered Foods

September 5

New report reveals stalled launch of gene-edited salad greens in Canada

June 10

In 2025, Radio-Canada (in French) reported that CBAN and many Canadian scientists were profiled by the corporate public relations company Bonus Eventus for biotech companies and the industry lobby group CropLife Canada, to help corporate interests try to discredit pesticide and GMO critics.

In Memoriam

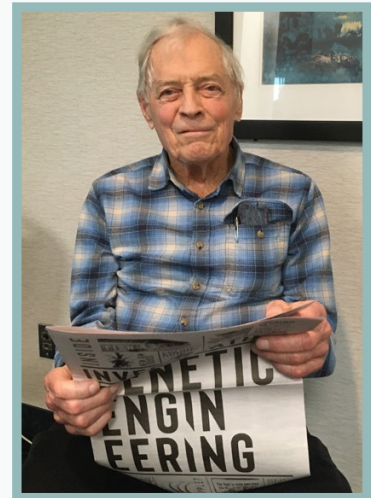
Brewster Kneen

JULY 21, 1933 — DECEMBER 1, 2025

CBAN honours the life and work of Brewster Kneen, leading Canadian food systems analyst and critic of genetic engineering. The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network is part of Brewster's legacy. He dedicated much of his long, full life to taking action for justice. Brewster was a global leader in examining genetic engineering and critiquing what he described as the ideology of biotechnology, a "bad attitude" of ingratitude and domination (Read his book *Farmageddon: Food and the Culture of Biotechnology*, 1998). Thank you for everything Brewster!

**"Thank you once again for your diligence on my /
our behalf on a subtle but IMPORTANT biotech issue."**

— Brewster to CBAN.



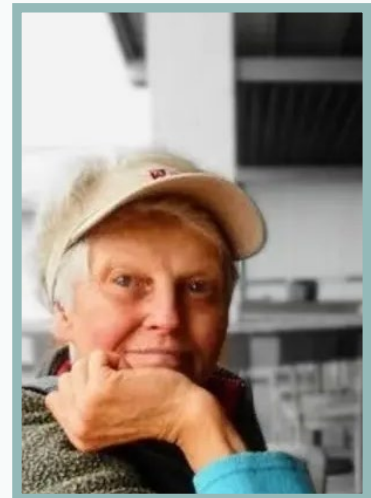
Sylvia V. Mangalam

JANUARY 28, 1934 — JANUARY 24, 2025

We pay tribute to our long-time donor Sylvia V. Mangalam of Nova Scotia. Her obituary reads, "She was staunchly for agriCULTURE, not agriBUSINESS. She knew that a complex system of hardworking people is critical to our food security." Sylvia was a Quaker and invited CBAN to present at an Atlantic gathering of Quakers in 2021. Sylvia donated every year that she could and she often sent encouraging messages to CBAN. Thank you for all your action and support Sylvia!

**"Your material is so good, and so clear, and so well
presented--about the best of all the groups I get,
and I get a lot!"**

— Sylvia to CBAN.



We need more of those informative and beautifully laid out brochures. I am so happy to see them fly out our door and they've sparked many conversations at our patio tables.

When I see your emails, it makes me warm in my heart to see you are doing this work. Please don't stop what you are doing.

We greatly value CBAN's collaboration and the collective efforts underway to advance transparency on genetically engineered foods.

Nice work, Lucy and team! Love this update, very useful.

Great work!! A page of beauty!

Thanks again for all the great work you do.

I love how most of your hard copy materials are poster ready, it makes it so easy to share.

Thank you for organizing the webinar series – I was blown away with the speakers.

Thanks for helping us get motivated to be more organized.

I think it's great work that you do, essential!

This is a masterpiece of synthesis and clarity.

Thank you for your important, untiring work of raising public awareness, protecting Canadian's health and holding decision makers accountable. More wind in your sails.

Thank You!

TO OUR FUNDERS IN 2025

including donating businesses
and organizations:

Alberta Organic Producers Association
albertaorganicproducers.org

CS Fund
csfund.org

The Edith and Bernard Ennis Foundation

GEKKO Foundation

Inter Pares
interpares.ca

Lifestyles Market
lifestylemarkets.com

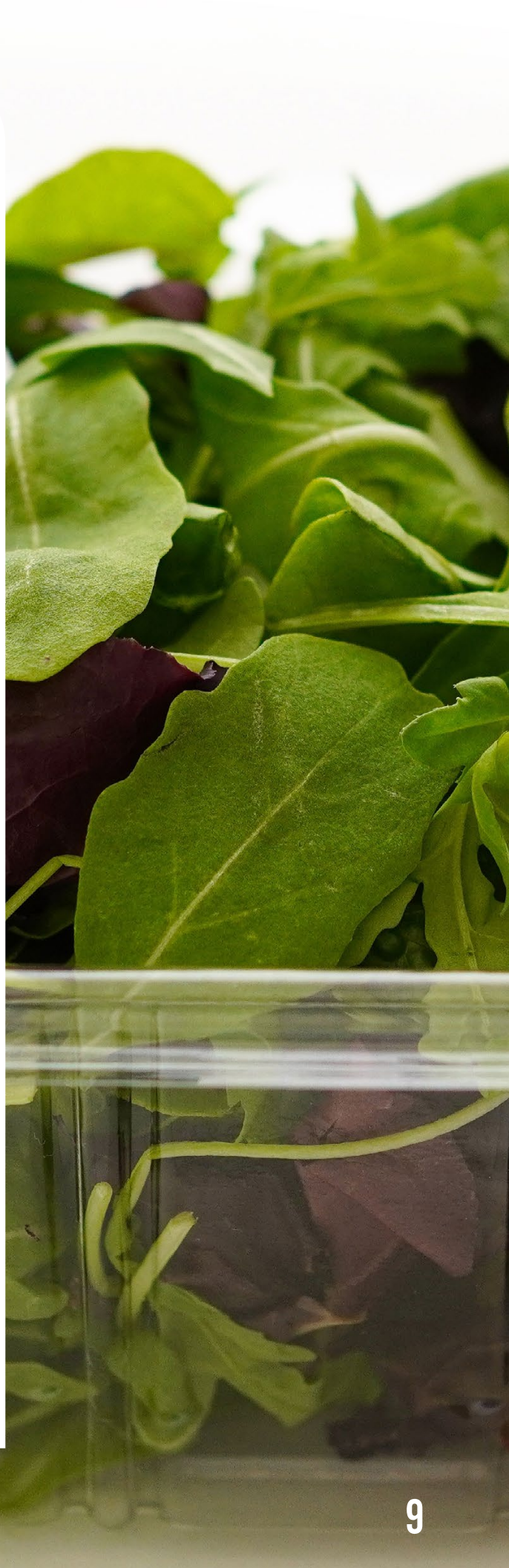
MakeWay Foundation

Nature's Path Foods
naturespath.com

New Roots Herbal Inc.
newrootsherbal.com

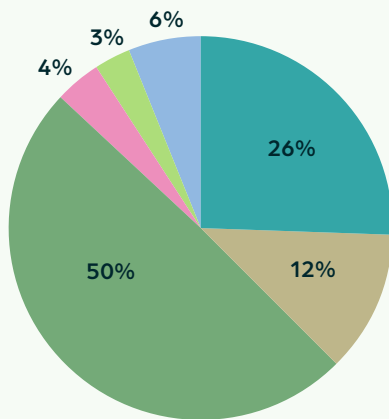
Renfrew County National Farmers Union
Local 330

**Thank you to all the
individuals who donated
in 2025.**



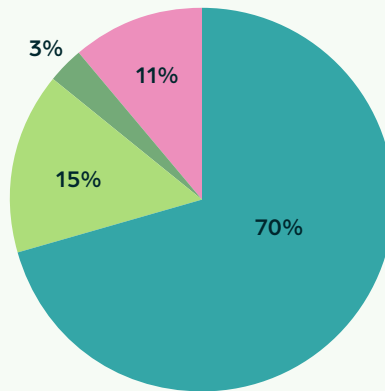
FINANCES

2025 CBAN Revenue \$269,543



- Individual Donors
- Businesses
- Grants
- Member fees
- Other
- Deferred Funds

2025 CBAN Expenses \$269,534



- Staffing
- Programs
- Office Expenses
- MakeWay Core Supports Contribution*

*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 14 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.ca

CBAN is a project of the shared platform of MakeWay Charitable Society, a registered Canadian charity.

CBAN MEMBERS

Canadian Organic Growers • Council of Canadians • Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario • Ecology Action Centre (Nova Scotia) • Growers of Organic Food Yukon • Greenpeace Canada • Inter Pares • National Farmers Union • No More GMOs Toronto • GMO-Free PEI • Organic Agriculture Protection Fund of Saskatchewan • SeedChange • Union Paysanne • Vigilance OGM