



# STOP CORPORATE SELF-REGULATION OF GMOS

September 2, 2021

## ACTION BRIEF

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are proposing new "regulatory guidance" which would **exempt many new genetically engineered foods and seeds (genetically modified organisms or GMOs) from government safety assessments**. Instead, product developers themselves would assess food and environmental safety, with **no government oversight**. These exemptions would apply to many new genetically engineered foods and seeds that have no foreign DNA (likely produced by gene editing techniques).

### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

**The proposals would mean some unregulated, possibly some unreported, genetically engineered gene-edited foods and seeds onto the market.**

All products of genetic engineering, including those with no foreign DNA, should be subject to government safety assessments.

We need independent science and transparency. There is an inherent conflict of interest in companies determining if regulations apply to their own products, and in determining their safety. The proposals would ask Canadians to accept unseen corporate safety assessments and corporate science, without any government checks.

Narrowly focussing on the presence of foreign DNA as a trigger for government safety assessment is simplistic and overlooks many possible safety issues that could result from gene editing. Gene editing can result in a range of possible unintended effects.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

1. You can ask your candidates in the federal election **before Sept 20**: "Do you support mandatory government safety assessments for all genetically engineered food and seeds? If elected, would you ensure that all genetically engineered foods and seeds are regulated?" Check our one-page background sheet for info to help ask your question, or to give directly to your candidates: [www.cban.ca/NoExemptions/Election](http://www.cban.ca/NoExemptions/Election)
2. You can answer the CFIA's online consultation questionnaire **before Sept 16**: Consult CBAN's guide for help: [www.cban.ca/NoExemptions/CFIAGuide](http://www.cban.ca/NoExemptions/CFIAGuide)
3. Stay tuned for more actions after the election, to have your voice heard.