



STOP CORPORATE SELF-REGULATION OF GMOS

November 1, 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 instantly send a pre-written **letter to the Minister of Health** from www.cban.ca/NoExemptions Just fill out the form on the side of the page. Ask the Minister to ensure food safety by conducting safety assessments for all genetically engineered foods.
2. If you are a part of a local, regional or national group, please **ask your group to sign the letter to Ministers** at www.cban.ca/NoExemptions/OpenLetter "Call for transparency and government oversight of all genetically engineered foods and seeds: No regulatory exemptions". Deadline November 15, 2021.
3. Email CBAN's information briefing to your new Member of Parliament. **Visit www.cban.ca/NoExemptions/EmailMP for three easy steps.**
4. **Visit www.cban.ca/NoExemptions for more actions and info**