# Saskatchewan certified organic farmers are in a fight for survival. The threat? Genetically Engineered Wheat.

Monsanto has applied to have GE Wheat licensed for commercial production in Canada, and could obtain approval from the federal government as early as spring of 2004.

Saskatchewan is the heart of organic grain production in Canada, with over one million acres and close to one thousand farmers. If GE wheat is grown on the prairies it WILL contaminate non-GE fields, and it WILL spread to organic farms, making it IMPOSSIBLE to grow an organic wheat crop. We must stop Monsanto now.

### We are taking them to Court

The Saskatchewan Organic Directorate, through its Organic Agriculture Protection Fund, has launched a class action lawsuit to get compensation for the loss of organic canola as a crop and to get an injunction to stop GE wheat.

We simply cannot grow certified organic canola (oilseed rape) anymore. Even pedigreed seed stock is contaminated with Monsanto's GE Roundup Ready and Bayer's GE Liberty Link canola! We've lost one valuable crop. We need to protect organic wheat from the same fate.

Without wheat, prairie organic farmers will not be able to stay in business.

### No organic farmers means no organic food

You can be part of the world-wide struggle to protect the right of farmers to grow GMO-free crops, and the right of consumers to eat GMO-free food by making a donation to the OAPF fund.

to make your donation  $\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow$ 

### The Legal Action

We filed the statement of claim for this class action against Monsanto and Aventis (now Bayer) for damages caused by the introduction of GE canola and for an injunction to stop GE wheat on January 10, 2002.

Our claim alleges that when Aventis (now Bayer) and Monsanto introduced their GE canola they knew or ought to have known of this crop's ability to cross-pollinate, spread and contaminate the environment, including organic fields. The companies wish to profit from their enterprises, but they must be held liable for the consequences of their actions as well.

An Agriculture Canada study, "Isolation Effectiveness in Canola Seed Production" shows that even growers of certified seed cannot prevent GE contamination by Round Up Ready and Liberty Link canola.

Our preliminary economic analysis shows that losses due to the introduction of GE canola could well be over \$14 million, and that if GE wheat is introduced it would spell the demise of certified organic agriculture on the prairies.

In December 2002 we filed documents with the Court of Queen's Bench to have the legal action certified as a class action. Our class certification hearing is scheduled for spring of 2004. You can follow the case by checking our website. Details, including all decisions, are available at www.saskorganic.com.

Winning our legal action will set an undeniable legal and moral precedent, making it possible for people in other jurisdictions to protect their own crops and food supply too. Your financial support is vital to the success of this case.

Please check applicab	Name:Address: Postal/Zip Code	Yes, I want to help!  Here is my contribution of: \$  Here is my contribution of: \$  City/Town:  S: Phone: ()  Janic Farmer: □ Certification agency  St. □ Organic retailer: □ Organ	to help!         of: \$         City/Town: Fax or Email:         Ition agency :         Organic trader or processor: □
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### What people are saying:

"If farmers don't take a stand on limits to patenting and how biotechnology is used to alter seeds such as wheat; we risk losing market access, loss of income, loss of choice; as well as losing control over what we produce, how we produce it, what value it has, and who will buy it." - Marc Loiselle, OAPF Committee, Dec. 8 2001

OCIA International Standards and Materials Coordinator, Brian Kozisek says about the case, "It will also set a precedent in the U.S. Our agriculture systems are closely tied." He added, there have been other court actions over GM crop issues in the States, but nothing on the scale of the Saskatchewan lawsuit. - Saskatoon Star Phoenix, July 29, 2003

"There are several lessons that Britain can, and should, learn from the Canadian experience. The most important is that "co-existence" - a framework to ensure that organic and conventional farming can survive and prosper alongside GM farming - is a mirage. In Saskatchewan, organic oilseed rape (which the Canadians call canola) has been wiped out by cross-contamination from Monsanto's "Roundup Ready" GM canola. " - Micheal Meacher, former UK Environment Minister, Aug. 6, 2003

"... this high profile and precedent setting legal action has the potential to raise international public awareness on issues that go beyond the narrow focus of the class action -- issues that are common and crucial to the well being of all farmers, the public and the environment world wide. I believe that Saskatchewan organic farmers are part of an international movement, a community of people that is rising up and saying "no"! "No ... to the corporate agenda and the governments that promote it. We will take charge of our future -- and we'll do it on our terms!" - Doug Bone, OAPF Committee, Oct. 27, 2002



### **About the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate**

SOD's vision is Food for Life.

SOD's mission is to champion organic agriculture in a democratic manner.

SOD provides an umbrella organization that unites the province's producers, processors, buyers, traders, certifiers and consumers of certified organic food and fibre. It is an incorporated non-profit organization but is not a registered charity. SOD has established the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund (SOD OAPF) to pay for and facilitate the legal action. Receipts will be issued for all contributions.

This historic class action is about the survival of organic farming in Saskatchewan. It is about the survival of organic agriculture on the prairies. It is about keeping GMO contamination out of our daily bread.

Make your contribution today. Together, we can win this legal action.

## SOD OAPF

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