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## Position Paper regarding Genetically Modified Organisms\*

\*definition: GMO = Genetically Modified Organism , and it is understood to mean a product derived by genetic modification/engineering using recombinant DNA and other transgenic techniques

### *WHEREAS:*

Genetically modified organisms are threatening the integrity of the organic food product industry of Canada due to:

1. The inability of owner-developers, crop producers, and handlers to control the spread of GMO material in application and use, thereby contaminating neighbouring growers' fields, both organic and conventional, and out-crossing with closely related native plant and other field crop species;
  - through POLLEN and SEED DRIFT to neighbouring fields by means of wind (year round) or application process,
  - through INSECT and other WILDLIFE ACTIVITY spreading the GMO contamination beyond field borders,
  - through RUNOFF water and WATERSHED action,
  - through HUMAN CARRIERS, VEHICLES and EQUIPMENT as fields are inspected and field work is performed,
  - through TRANSPORT of GM products,
  - through PROCESSING of GM products.
2. the rejection of GMO contaminated food products by our principal markets, that is:
  - nations that import our organic food products reject GMO contamination; there is zero tolerance,
  - producers have already lost the market for certified organic canola, for example,
  - the domestic markets are showing a justifiable groundswell of opposition to GMO contaminated food products.

### *AND WHEREAS:*

Owner-developers of genetically modified crops have demonstrated irresponsibility and lack of accountability in promotion and wide scale use of this technology. The safety of this technology has not been proven in regard to its effects, acute or chronic, on human health or the health of the environment, issues of paramount importance to organic growers and consumers.

### *AND WHEREAS:*

Government regulatory agencies appear to have shown complicity in this irresponsibility and have not, in our opinion, shown due diligence in protecting public interest regarding the effect of GMO food products on public health, the environment or on the organic food industry.

Furthermore, governments have demonstrated serious conflicts of interest as they are simultaneously acting as investors in and regulators of genetically modified food.

### **\*LIABILITY**

#### ***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:***

Owner-developers and producers of genetically modified crops shall be liable for damages and losses incurred upon:

- the environment or public health
- the livelihood of the individual farmer producers of Non-GMO crops whose fields have been contaminated with GMO's
- the Organic Industry as a whole, should its national certified food product become contaminated and its credibility as a supplier of pure **non** genetically modified organic products in the domestic and international marketplaces becomes irreparably compromised;
- the Environment, in perpetuity.

### **\*LABELLING**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

In both domestic and international markets; genetically modified food products shall bear clear identification as to the presence of GM material in the product and/or in the plant producing the product; and that such labelling be mandatory.

### **\*SEGREGATION**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

- there shall, in the growth, harvesting, transportation, storage and processing of such food products, be effective segregation between GM products and non-GM products, and documentation to prove the same.
- since existing protocol and legislation regarding isolation requirements are inadequate and mostly non-existent, the regulations need to be rewritten and legislated.

### **\*MORATORIUM**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

- Saskatchewan Legislature impose a moratorium on the release of and growing of any new transgenic GM crops, including wheat.
- Parliament of Canada impose a moratorium on the approval by Canadian government regulatory agencies of any new genetically engineered crops/food products.
- Parliament of Canada impose a moratorium on the production, importation, distribution, and sale of GM foods until questions regarding consumer acceptance, human health, environmental implications, technology ownership, and farmer profitability are answered to the satisfaction of the majority of Canadians.

### **\*INJUNCTION**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

Should moratoriums not be imposed; that consideration be given to apply to courts for injunction against release of GM wheat and any other proposed GM crops.

### **\*LOBBYING**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

- we support and participate in lobby efforts directed at federal and provincial governments to enact 'Right to Farm GMO-free' legislation.
- We support and participate in lobby efforts directed at the federal and provincial governments to enact legislation making parent companies liable for genetic pollution that infringes on the livelihoods of farmers or the general public.
- We support international lobby efforts against GM crop/food production.
- We demand a complete review of Canada's food regulatory, testing and inspection procedures with emphasis on consumer awareness and protection.

### **\*CLEAN UP**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

Since it has already been proven that GMO's cannot be contained within the boundary of a particular farm, GM crop production must cease and a major clean up by GMO patent holders, using methods acceptable to the affected landowner, be done on contaminated land before further environmental disasters occur.

### **\*PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

The Precautionary Principle must be observed. This principle involves protection of the environment and human health taken in advance of potential damage, not after the potential or actual damage has occurred. Actions must be taken to control or eliminate practices, such as genetic modification/engineering using recombinant DNA and other transgenic techniques, that seem likely to harm the environment, human health or sound social relations, even if proof of harm is not definitive.

### **\*PATENT**

#### *AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT:*

- LIFE, plant or otherwise, is the domain of all humankind. All life forms must be held in common.
- No individual, corporation, organization or state must be allowed to hold patent on life forms including seed for food production.