

GE Free BC - when?

Who are we?

The Society for a G.E. Free B.C. is a social justice coalition of groups and individuals across BC/Yukon working for local, community based agriculture, and against genetic engineering of plants and trees. GE Free BC envisions a food-sovereign Canada where no genetically engineered life forms are created, patented, approved, bought, sold or traded.

Why do we want a GE free BC?

No studies have been conducted to assess the long-term impact of GE foods on health and the environment. But Canadian farmers are increasingly being coerced into buying GE seeds by large corporations, and federal and provincial legislation is making it more and more difficult for small and organic farmers to survive. Canadian consumers are given no choice as to whether they eat GE products or not – unlike in Europe and many other parts of the world, there is no mandatory labelling of GE products. Today, 7 out of 10 processed foods in your groceries contain GE ingredients. Yet poll after poll shows that over 90% of Canadians want a mandatory labelling standard that allows consumers to know what is in the food they eat.

What are GE crops?

Farmers have cross-bred between crops for a long time, but GE crops are different. First, they are produced and controlled by large corporations, which are largely unaccountable to the public. Second, they mix genes from non-plant species with crops – and, unlike cross-breeding by farmers, this science is new and unpredictable. Third, corporations can patent GE seeds, which damages traditional forms of seed-sharing among farmers.

Supporting a GE free BC means supporting bio-diversity, local farmers and economies. Who is going to decide what we eat, local communities, or big US corporations who are currently pushing for farmers to grow GE crops and consumers to eat them?

What are we doing – Ban Terminator, mandatory labelling in BC, GE Free Kootenays and Yukon

We are supporting and running the campaigns above to inform the public about GE foods, to stop GE foods, and to promote local farming. If you would like to know more, go to our website.

www.gefreebc.org

[**gefreebc@yahoo.ca**](mailto:gefreebc@yahoo.ca)