

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2000

AND NEXT, WE'LL REDEFINE 'VOLUNTARY'

Today, members of the Citizens' Voluntary Labelling Collective put warning labels on genetically engineered (GE) foods in supermarkets in Charlottetown. Since the Canadian government has clearly stated its support for voluntary labelling, some citizens have decided to volunteer ...

One anonymous labeller explained: "The biotech revolution, led by agrochemical corporations and outrageously supported by American and Canadian governments, is literally

bringing us a new model of development, in which life is the new raw material that can be transformed in endless ways to maximize private profits and corporate control, while bringing quick-fix solutions to symptoms of our problems and putting aside their real causes."

People do not want to be lab rats in this unnecessary and unsafe experiment. The Citizens' Voluntary Labelling Collective has only just begun! **Collective press release, May 25.**

Media Release - For Immediate Release

Citizens' Voluntary Labelling Collective (CVLC) calls for labelling of foods that may contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

Montréal, April 8, 2000 - Today, at Provigo, 1000 Mont-Royal East, a group of citizens have performed their first session of Citizens' Voluntary Labelling Collective (CVLC). Since the Canadian government has clearly stated their support for Voluntary Labelling, some citizens have decided to volunteer.

These citizens will be assisting the Committee on Voluntary Labelling of Foods Obtained or Not Obtained Through Genetic Modification, created in September of 1999, by the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors, a private entity, and the Canadian General Standards Board, a government agency.

**WARNING: THIS PRODUCT MAY
CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED
MATERIAL WHICH HAS NOT BEEN
ADEQUATELY TESTED AND MAY BE
DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH.**

The Canadian Government celebrated the creation of this fake committee, whose purpose was to reaffirm the policy that has been in place since the appearance of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) on grocery store shelves. We know that since this policy began no companies have indicated the presence of GMOs in their food products.

We know that there is a division between the scientific community about GMOs. Some groups financed by multinational corporations try to reassure the population and others ask for moratorium on those products; this last group is evoking the Precautionary Principle because they claim that we cannot know the effect of spreading these life forms into nature and into our diets. The citizens are guinea pigs for these products.

In order to shut down the opposition to GMOs a group of companies from the biotech industry, led by Monsanto, are planning to spend \$50 million on advertising and promotion of their products over the next three years. This group said that it may expand the campaign and spend as much as \$250 million over the next five years in the United States and Canada. We know that this vision, based on short-term benefits for their shareholders, will not consider the Precautionary Principle.

In the unique goal to inform the population about the essence of biotechnology, we, Citizens invite others to participate in this CVLC campaign. We have the right to choose which products we eat, and without labels, we cannot make an informed decision. We have the right to refuse the privatization of life imposed by companies. Citizens, at your labels.

http://www.resistanceisfertile.com/action_montreal.htm