



For Immediate Release:

Greenpeace and INFACT find contaminated baby food sold at Loblaws
“Loblaws is force feeding GE food with health risks to our children”

Toronto, Oct 29, 2002 - Greenpeace and INFACT Canada, a mother and infant consumer rights group, today brought dozens of dolls with funnels in their mouths to a downtown Toronto Loblaws store, to represent the fact that Loblaws is force feeding vulnerable infants and children GE foods with known health risks. Loblaws stores stock most of the products, including their own house brands that, according to a new survey of infant food companies, are known or are likely to contain GE ingredients.

Loblaws, Canada’s largest grocer, manufactures and sells GE baby food, but refuses to have the GE ingredients removed or labeled. Nestlé, Mead Johnson, Kraft and Ross Products were also fingered in the survey as either confirming that their products were made with GE ingredients, refusing to make a commitment to remove them, or simply not knowing if their baby food is GE.

“Parents expect Loblaws to be making and selling baby food that is safe. Instead, they are knowingly pushing GE food to our children,” said Holly Penfound, Greenpeace’s GE campaign coordinator. “There should be zero tolerance for GE ingredients in baby food. Loblaws must remove GE ingredients from their own baby food and stop selling GE contaminated baby food from other companies.”

Various authorities have recognized that eating GE foods comes with certain risks, including creating new toxins and allergens, changing nutrition levels, and contributing to the problem of antibiotic resistance. Authorities include the British Medical Association, Royal Society of Canada, the Ontario Public Health Association and the National Public Health Institute of Quebec.

“Bottle fed infants up until 6 months of age exclusively rely on infant formula as their major food source. They are fed GE-containing food during a very important growth and developmental stage,” said Elisabeth Sterken, director of INFACT Canada and a nutritionist.

Earth’s Best, Milupa, Healthy Times and Tiny Bites have removed GE ingredients from their baby food products, and Heinz has committed to doing so, demonstrating it can be done.

Today’s action is part of a North American week of action against genetically engineered food. Protests are anticipated outside GE food retailers in over 100 cities across the continent.

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Copies of survey and backgrounder available at www.greenpeace.ca