

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace Launches updated GE Food Shoppers Guide Decima Poll shows Canadians don't want GE Baby Food

For Immediate Release

Toronto, April 30th, 2003 - Greenpeace today launched an updated edition of its popular Shoppers Guide: How to Avoid Genetically Engineered Food, alongside INFACT Canada, Toronto's Children and Youth Advocate Olivia Chow and several Canadian moms and babies. The guide lists over 1000 products commonly found in Canada's grocery stores, and whether or not they contain GE ingredients. This edition also contains a special section on the potential health risks to babies of GE foods.

"Canadians have the right to know what they are eating," said Holly Penfound, Greenpeace's Environmental Health Co-ordinator. "Lack of labelling is of particular concern to parents who want to avoid feeding GE foods to their babies and children. Greenpeace produces this guide because of the failure and refusal of companies like Loblaws and government to label GE products."

Organizations such as the Royal Society of both Canada and the United Kingdom, the EPA, and the FAO/WHO have recognized that health risks that may arise from eating genetically engineered foods pose particular risks to babies, children and other vulnerable populations. The risks are increased for infants who are not breastfed and instead rely exclusively on GE formula.

"Infant formula is already an inferior food for babies putting them at greater risk for a variety of illnesses including ear and upper respiratory infections, asthma, diabetes and cancer," said Suzanne Elston, Special Projects Coordinator for INFACT Canada. "These risks are increased when infant formula is genetically engineered. GE ingredients can decrease the nutritional value of baby foods, increase infant exposure to toxins, and elevate the risk of developing allergies and resistance to antibiotics."

Greenpeace Canada today released poll results that show 73% of Canadians agree when asked if food manufacturers should remove genetically engineered ingredients from their baby foods. 79% of women and 81% of homemakers surveyed agreed that such ingredients should be removed. The Decima Research poll interviewed (2025) Canadians and is accurate to within (2.1) percentage points 19 times out of 20

Since the launch of the original Shoppers Guide, several companies have removed GE ingredients from their foods, including Heinz Canada who recently announced that they are no longer using any GE ingredients in their baby foods.

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The Greenpeace Shoppers Guide, can be ordered by calling 1.800.320.7183 or emailing members@yto.greenpeace.org/. A \$2 donation is requested to cover the cost of production. It can also be viewed on the internet at <http://www.greenpeace.ca/shoppersguide/>