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Letter to the Editor

# Suspicion of GMOs Justified

In response to the Nov. 30 letter "GMO labeling won't make sense if definitions still unclear" from the chairman of the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee: in the early days of agricultural biotechnology in Canada, the industry/government cabal decided the best way to ensure mass-market penetration of their products was to deny consumers the right to know what they are eating.

How to do this? First, agree among "partners" that labeling will kill the industry (despite industry-sponsored research to the contrary).

Second, set up an elaborate, snail-paced, industry-stacked, taxpayer-funded charade to develop a "voluntary labeling standard." Have the grocery industry's lobby group (the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors) and the Canadian General Standards Board develop this process, wherein the mandatory-labeling option isn't even to be considered, despite overwhelming polling evidence that this is what Canadians want.

Next, defer to this secretive process whenever awkward questions arise in the House of Commons or in the public arena about why the public's right to choose is being ignored.

In the meantime, refuse to allow companies to voluntarily label their products as "GMO-free."

Finally, hope that the cabal's well-honed skills at prolonging and delaying will, in the end, wear out its critics.

Is it any wonder Canadians regard these products, and those who shill for them, with such deep suspicion?

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