

GUIDE TO THE GROUPS: KEY ORGANIZATIONS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY ACTIVISM¹

In Canada

Canadian Environmental Law Association

www.cela.ca

517 College St., Suite 401, Toronto, ON, M6G 4A2

Phone: 416-960-2284 Fax: 416-960-9392 E-mail: cela@web.net

Intervenor in the court hearings on whether higher life forms are patentable, among other issues. CELA publishes a newsletter called *Intervenor*.

Canadian Health Coalition

www.healthcoalition.ca

2841 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1V 8X7

Mainly concerned with preserving medicare, also actively involved in the issue of regulation food and drugs and ensuring a strong and reliable health protection system.

Canadian Women's Health Network

www.chwn.ca

203 - 419 Graham Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0M3 Canada

Phone: 204-942-5500 Fax: 204-989-2355 Email: cwhn@cwhn.ca

Has published articles on gender and biotechnology in its magazine.

Council of Canadians

www.canadians.org

502-151 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON K1P 5H3 Canada

Phone: 613-233-2773 Fax: 613-233-6776 Email: inquiries@canadians.org

The Council of Canadians provides a critical voice on key national and international issues.

Current campaigns include genetic engineering and food safety, water and trade, and economic globalization.

The David Suzuki Foundation

www.davidsuzuki.org

2211 West 4th Ave., Suite 219, Vancouver, BC Canada

Phone: 604-732-4228 Fax: 604-732-0752 E-mail: solutions@davidsuzuki.org

A science-based and solutions-oriented Canadian environmental organization.

Genetic Engineering Alert (GE Alert)

www.canadians.org/ge-alert/ge-alert.html

This is an independent group of scientists, academics, and agricultural professionals committed to informing Canadians about the implications of agricultural genetic engineering. It represents a broad range of expertise, from genetics, ecology, and agronomy to social policy and economics, all of which is essential to comment on the "real world" applications of molecular genetics.

Greenpeace Canada

www.greenpeacecanada.org

Biotechnology: www.greenpeacecanada.org/e/campaigns/ge/

250 Dundas St. W, Suite 605, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2Z5 Canada

Phone: 416-597-8408 OR 1-800-320-7183 Fax: 416-597-8422

¹ Completed with the research and assistance of M. Morris, T. Hwong and F.A. Miller

National Farmer's Union

www.nfu.ca

2717 Wentz Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7K 4B6 Canada

Phone (306) 652-9465 Fax: (306) 664-6226

NFU has a Women's Program involved in, among other things, regulation and labelling of genetically modified foods.

Rural Advancement Foundation International

Web: www.rafi.ca

110 Osborne St. Suite 202, Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R 3L 1Y5 Canada

Phone: 204 453-5259 Fax: 204-925-8034 Email: rafican@web.apc.org

An international organization dedicated to the conservation and sustainable improvement of agricultural biodiversity, and to the socially responsible development of technologies useful to rural societies. RAFI is concerned about the loss of genetic diversity particularly in agriculture, and about the impact of intellectual property rights on agriculture and world food security.

Sierra Club of Canada

www.sierraclub.ca

412-1 Nicholas St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7B7

Phone (613) 241-4611 Fax: (613) 241-2292 E-mail: sierra@web.net

The Sierra Club has been active in Canada since 1969, working on matters of public policy and environmental awareness.

Outside Canada²

A SEED

www.antenna.nl/aseed

PO Box 92066, Amsterdam, AB 1090, The Netherlands

Phone: +31-20-468-2616 Fax: +31-20-468-2275 Email: biotech@ased.antenna.nl

"A SEED (Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development) is a global network of youth activists in over seventy countries. A SEED's current campaign activities include forests, transport and infrastructure, gene technologies and patents on life, the oil industry, and globalization."

Alliance for Bio-integrity

www.bio-integrity.org

PO Box 2927, Iowa City, IA 52244 USA

Phone: 515-472-5554 Email: info@bio-integrity.org

"Non-profit alliance formed to rally Americans to reject genetically engineered foods, the Alliance for Bio-integrity educates and litigates on these issues."

Campaign for Responsible Transplantation

www.crt-online.org

PO Box 2751, New York, NY 10163 USA

Phone: 212-579-3477

² Most of the organizations listed here are from a valuable resource: The Turning Point Project (www.turnpoint.org/gecoalorgs.html) which lists community organizations active in genetic engineering/biotechnology issues among other resources.

“An international coalition of physicians, scientists and 75 public interest groups concerned about the irresponsible rush to commercialize animal-to-human organ, cell and tissue transplants (xenotransplants) using nonhuman primates and genetically engineered pigs.”

Center for Ethics and Toxics

www.cetos.org

PO Box 673, Gualala, CA 95445 USA

Phone: 707-884-1700 Fax: 707-884-1846

Email: cetos@cetos.org

“Cetos is a non-profit organization committed to protecting vulnerable populations and promoting ethical policies in controlling potentially toxic substances. They boosted the current biotechnology movement by writing a book, *Against the Grain* (Common Courage Press, 1998), over the objections of Monsanto Corporation. They have championed the rights of small farmers, the disenfranchised, and the poor in their battles against chemical pollution and pesticides.”

Center for Food Safety

www.icta.org

310 D Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 USA

Phone: 202-547-9359 Fax: 202-547-9429 E-mail: office@icta.org

“The goal of CFS is to preserve organic food; ensure the testing and labeling of genetically engineered foods; and to carry out litigation efforts when the US government fails to act appropriately. CFS produces a newsletter, which is published quarterly.”

Consumer's Choice Council

www.consumerscouncil.org

2000 P Street, NW Suite 308, Washington, DC 20036 USA

Phone: 202-785-1950 Fax: 202-452-9640 Email: consumer@ibm.net

“Founded in 1997, the Consumer's Choice Council is an association of 57 environmental, corporate, and human rights organizations from 25 different countries, dedicated to protecting the environment and promoting human rights and basic labor standards. The Council's core objectives include: advocating independent, third-party labeling of consumer products; supporting the efforts of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate environmentally-preferable procurement and recycling by the federal government; and working with the U.S. Trade Representative, the World Trade Organization, and the International Organization for Standardization to strengthen and enforce environmental considerations and internationally-recognized worker rights in the conduct of international trade.”

Council for Responsible Genetics

www.gene-watch.org

5 Upland Road, Suite 3, Cambridge, MA 02140 USA

Phone: 617-868-0870 Fax: 617-491-5344 Email: crg@gene-watch.org

“The Council for Responsible Genetics is a 20-year-old organization of scientists and activists who encourage public participation in debating the social and ethical implications of biotechnology. The Council publishes "Gene Watch" magazine, conducts studies, runs a "No Patents on Life" campaign, and facilitates public discussion and review of biotechnology.”

Earth Island Institute

www.earthisland.org

300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133 USA

Phone: 415-788-3666 Fax: 415-788-7324

Email: earthisland@earthisland.org

“Founded in 1982 by veteran environmentalist David R. Brower to foster the efforts of creative individuals on critical ecological issues, EII incubates diverse new initiatives and provides a support system for on-going projects. Earth Island's network of projects shares central resources and benefits from the synergetic exchange of experience, ideas, and energy. They have been widely recognized for their unique "reduce, reuse, and recycle" resources organizational model, freeing individual projects to communicate with their constituencies and the ability to respond quickly to evolving challenges.”

Edmonds Insitute

www.edmonds-institute.org

20319 92nd Ave. West, Edmonds, WA 98020 USA

Phone: 425-775-5383 Fax: 425-670-8410 Email: beb@igc.org

“The Edmonds Institute is a non-profit organization committed to the health and sustainability of ecosystems and their inhabitants....The Institute focuses its efforts on understanding and sharing information about environmental, social, and economic impacts of technology and intellectual property policies. The current emphasis of its programs are on: (a) biosafety and the legally-binding international regulation of modern biotechnologies, (b) intellectual property rights and just policies for the maintenance and protection of biodiversity, including policies that foster recognition and sustenance of agricultural biodiversity, and (c) exploration of the ethical implications of new technologies. The Institute does research, answers inquiries, publishes policy analysis and scientific pieces, sponsors public workshops, and provides information to national and international decision-making bodies.”

Food and Water

389 Route 215, Walden, VT 05873 USA

Phone: 802-563-3300 Fax: 802-563-3310

Food & Water, Inc. is a national non-profit advocacy organization working to combat the industrialization of our culture and agriculture. The group also publishes the *Food & Water Journal*.

Food First / Institute for Food & Development Policy

www.foodfirst.org

398 60th Street, Oakland, CA 94618 USA

Phone: 510-654-4400 Fax: 510-654-4551 Email: foodfirst@foodfirst.org

“The Institute for Food and Development Policy - better known as Food First - is a member-supported, non-profit 'peoples' think tank and education-for-action center. Their work highlights root causes and value-based solutions to hunger and poverty around the world, with a commitment to establishing food as a fundamental human right. As a progressive think tank, Food First produces books, reports, articles, films, electronic media, and curricula, plus interviews, lectures, workshops and academic courses for the public, policymakers, activists, the media, students, educators and researchers.”

Foundation on Economic Trends

www.biotechcentury.org

1660 L Street, NW, Suite 216, Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

Phone: 202-466-2823 Fax: 202-429-9602 Email: jrifkin@foet.org

“Involved in biotech related issues for more than 23 years, the Foundation on Economic Trends (FET) examines new trends in the biological sciences with an eye toward assessing their environmental, economic and social impacts.”

Friends of the Earth

www.foe.org

1025 Vermont Ave., NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20005 USA

Phone: 202-783-7400 Fax: 202-783-0444 Email: foe@foe.org

"Friends of the Earth is an environmental advocacy organization with affiliates in over 52 countries. FOE is dedicated to protecting the planet from environmental disaster by preserving biological, cultural and ethnic diversity and empowering citizens to have an effective voice in their pursuit of environmental and economic justice." FOE has a Safer Food, Safer Farms Campaign: Protecting the Health of Consumers, Farmers and the Environment:
www.foe.org/safefood/index.html

Genetic Engineering Network

www.dmac.co.uk/gen.html

PO Box 9656, London, England N4 4JY

Phone: +44 181 374 9516 Email: genetics@gn.apc.org

"An informal network of individuals and groups exchanging information between groups campaigning against genetic engineering. GEN publishes a bi-monthly Genetix Update newsletter and runs an e-mail information service."

Greenpeace

www.greenpeace.org

The Indigenous Peoples Coalition Against Biopiracy

www.niec.net/ipcb

Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy

www.iatp.org

2105 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404-2505 USA

Phone: 612-870-3400 Fax: 612-870-4846 Email: mritchie@iatp.org

"IATP aims to create environmentally and economically sustainable communities and regions through sound agriculture and trade policy. They prepare educational materials for distribution to policy-makers, opinion leaders and the public, and provide training, consulting and technical assistance to groups interested in addressing economic and ecological issues."

International Center for Technology Assessment

www.icta.org

310 D Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 USA

Phone: 202-547-9359 Fax: 202-547-9429 Email: office@icta.org

"The Center for Technology Assessment has established itself as an important public interest voice in issues ranging from sustainable agriculture and biotechnology to transportation, globalization and intellectual property. CTA accomplishes much of its work by combining grassroots campaigns with strategic legal actions and public education outreach."

International Forum on Food and Agriculture

www.iffa.org

1555 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109 USA

Phone: 415-771-3394 Fax: 415-771-1121 Email: ifg@ifg.org

"The IFA was formed to articulate the full range of consequences of the rapid global conversion to industrial agriculture, to develop international cooperative strategies to counter this dangerous trend, and to clearly articulate successful alternative models."

International Forum on Globalization

www.ifg.org

1555 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109 USA

Phone: 415 771 3394 Fax: 415 771 1121 Email: ifg@ifg.org

"IFG is an international alliance of activists, scholars, economists, researchers, and writers from 20 countries formed to stimulate new thinking, joint activity, and public education in response to the rapidly emerging global economy. They publish documents related to globalization issues from perspectives of environment, culture, public health, human rights, and democracy."

International Society for Ecology and Culture

www.isec.org.uk

Apple Barn Week, Dartington, Devon TQ6JP England

Phone: +44-1803-868-650 Fax: +44-1803-868-651 Email: isecuk@gn.apc.org

"ISEC has two primary goals (1) to challenge economic globalization and conventional notions of "progress"; (2) to promote localization. They are active both at the grassroots and at policy level on 3 continents...."

Network for a Safe and Secure Food and Environment

3-23-15 Matsubara, Setegayaku, Tokyo, Japan 156-0043

Phone: 81-3-3327-6444 Fax: 81-3-3325-5890

"This network was established in 1990 out of concern about the agriculture talks at the GATT. NESSFE organizes grassroots seminars for consumers, lawmakers and scientists. Their main work involves disseminating information through publications and developing mutual understandings between producers and consumers in Asia. Focused on sustainable food security, the Network aims to develop new and alternative values of sustainable consumption and production."

Organic Consumers Association

www.purefood.org and www.organicconsumers.org

6114 Highway 61, Little Marais, MN 55614 USA

Phone: 218-726-1443 Fax: 218-726-1446 Email: safefood@cp.duluth.mn.us

"A nationwide network of consumers and activists, the Organic Consumers Association deals with issues of food safety, genetic engineering, and sustainable agriculture. The OCA and its campaign for food safety utilize a variety of tactics including public education, media work, direct action, grassroots lobbying, consumer boycotts, and litigation to achieve its three basic goals: (1) global moratorium on GE foods and crops; (2) stop factory farming; (3) at least 30% organic production in U.S. agriculture by 2010."

Peoples' Global Action Against "Free" Trade and the World Trade Organisation

<http://hn/www.agp.org/agp/en/index.html>.

Pesticide Action Network North America

www.panna.org

49 Powell St., Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94102 USA

Phone: 415-981-1771 Fax: 415-981-1991 Email: panna@panna.org

"PAN North America is one of five regional coordinating points throughout the world for a coalition of over 400 independent, autonomous citizen organizations working for pesticide reform in over 60 countries. They are dedicated to reducing the use of pesticides and promoting safer, more ecologically sound farming practices. They specifically oppose the commercial sale of crops genetically engineered to be herbicide tolerant."

Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology

A-60 Haus Kauz, New Delhi, India

“The Research Foundation works locally, nationally, and internationally to preserve biodiversity and traditional farming practices. Campaigns are focused around globalization, agriculture, patents on life and biopiracy.”

Third World Network

www.twinside.org.sg

228 Macalister Road, Penang, Malaysia 10440

Phone: +60-4-226-6728 Fax: +60-4-226-4505

“The Third World Network will focus on the battle against genetic engineering, support for defense of biodiversity, defense of community rights against patents on life, and campaign against a new WTO round.”

Union of Concerned Scientists

www.uscusa.org

1616 P Street N.W., Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

Phone: 202-332-0900 Fax: 202-332-0905 Email: ucs@ucsusa.org

“UCS is an alliance of 70,000 committed citizens and leading scientists who aim to "augment rigorous scientific research with public education and citizen advocacy to help build a cleaner, healthier environment and safer world." They study risks and benefits of the various applications of genetic engineering and support sustainable alternatives.”