

## Canada to oppose the right of countries to label GM foods?

**Ottawa, Montréal and Québec, April 30, 2010** – A large coalition of consumer, farmer and environmental groups are calling on the Federal Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq, to stop aligning Canada's positions with those of the U.S. at international negotiations on GM food labelling. Joint actions with the U.S. government threaten to compromise the right of countries to establish labelling of genetically modified (GM) foods.

Next week, May 3-7, the UN Codex Commission on Food Labelling will meet in Quebec City to negotiate recommendations for GM food labelling. The adoption of recommendations in Codex could permit countries to establish labelling regimes without the threat of challenge via the World Trade Organization.

Though Canada has not yet released its official position, as in the past it seems to be similar to that of the U.S., which is actually trying to stop the negotiations from continuing.

These delaying tactics are unacceptable, the more so because they are based on false arguments such as an insistence that there is no difference between GM food and food produced using conventional methods, and that the truth of GM labels cannot be verified. Canada and the U.S. appear to be negotiating in bad faith and are among the last countries resisting GM labelling.

The groups demand that the Minister give instructions to the Canadian government delegation to support a position that recognizes the rights of all countries to adopt rules on GM foods labelling.

Citizens are invited to participate in an internet-based letter campaign.

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Ariane Chenard and Charles Tanguay, from l'Union des consommateurs, will be members of the Canadian delegation in Quebec as Observers.

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