

GE Free Victoria

Prepared Victoria City Council
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Definition

Genetic engineering (GE) is the introduction of new traits to an organism by making changes directly to its genetic makeup, e.g. DNA, through intervention at the molecular level and without traditional breeding methods.¹

¹ CBAN

Why the Concern?

- * These GE technologies are not precise and their outcome is not predictable: they commonly result in off-target effects and unintended consequences
- * We are now using more glyphosate (Round-up) because of the use of GE crops
- * Canada & the US are the only two countries in the world that haven't banned or labeled GE crops
- * Safety studies are only conducted by the companies that own the GE patents. Health Canada does not do any independent studies.

GE & the Canadian Food System

Produced in Canada

- * Corn (silage)
- * Soy
- * Sugar Beets
- * Canola
- * Apple

Imported into Canada

- * Dairy Products
- * Squashes
- * Papaya
- * Cottonseed Oil

Overview

- * AVICC Resolution, April 2013

“to legislate the prohibition of importing, exporting and growing plants and seeds containing genetically engineered DNA, and raising GE animals within BC, and to declare, through legislation that the province of BC is a GE Free area in respect to all plant and animal species.”

- * 85% approval for GE Free Vancouver Island



The screenshot shows the Vancouver Sun website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for NEWS, BUSINESS, SPORTS, ARTS & LIFE, HOMES, TRAVEL, CAREERS, and OBITS. Below this, a secondary bar highlights NEWS and STAFF BLOGS, followed by a 'FEATURED' section with links to LEAD SERIES, THE REAL SCOOP, MEDICINE MATTERS, and EDUCATION. The main article headline is 'Richmond passes ban on genetically engineered crops'. The author is listed as RANDY SHORE, with a link to 'More from Randy Shore'. The publication date is May 23, 2012, and the last update is May 23, 2012 at 7:49 AM PDT. The article text begins with 'Richmond council has passed a motion banning genetically modified plants and crops from being grown in the city, the first'.

Learning from Richmond

- * The passing of the GE Free Zone resolution raised public awareness about the topic of GMOs
- * The resolution attracted many new, young farmers into Richmond as they felt the resolution aligned with their values
- * Kwantlen Polytechnic University is now developing a Urban Farming campus in the heart of Richmond