

**Social Responsibility Coalition,
First Unitarian Church of Victoria**

5575 West Saanich Road, Victoria BC V9E 2G1

Chair: Leslie Gillett, Church Office: Telephone: 250-744-2665,

Email: churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Dear Mayor and City Council,

July, 2015

GE Free Victoria is an ad hoc group with membership from the Environmental Sub-Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria (part of their Social Responsibility Coalition) and others in cooperation with GE Free BC¹, who advocate for a moratorium on GE² animals, plants and trees at the provincial and federal government levels through municipal petitions in BC communities, public education and awareness campaigns.

There are currently 16 GE Free municipalities in BC, 12 regional districts and the AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities) that have GE free language in their policies. Locally, both Saanich and Metchosin have passed GE Free resolutions. As the number of GE free zones grow, the strength of the GE Free BC campaign to address the BC and federal governments grows.

We are seeking to meet with the Councillors and Mayor of the City of Victoria individually or as a group and can send you a small package of information to review.

We are asking the City of Victoria to pass a GE Free Victoria Resolution, such as outlined on the attached page, adapted from recent resolutions proposed in North Vancouver, Vancouver and Coquitlam.

Thank you,

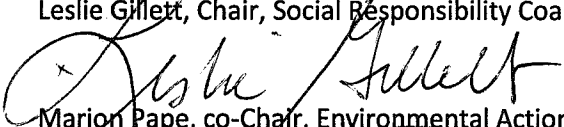
GE Free Victoria

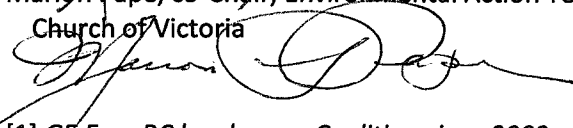
Ed and Virginia Daniel, Victoria, BC

Gurdeep Stephens, Oak Bay, BC

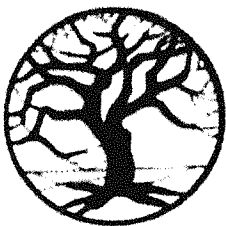
Jim Jordan, Sidney, BC

Leslie Gillett, Chair, Social Responsibility Coalition, First Unitarian Church of Victoria


Marion Pape, co-Chair, Environmental Action Team, Social Responsibility Coalition, First Unitarian Church of Victoria


[1] GE Free BC has been a Coalition since 2003, working towards a sustainable food system. The mission statement is: The Society for a GE Free BC is a social justice coalition of groups and individuals across BC/Yukon working for local, community-based agriculture, and against genetic engineering of plants, trees and animals. GE Free BC envisions a food-sovereign Canada where no genetically engineered life forms are created, patented, approved, bought, sold or traded.

[2] GE (genetically engineered), GM (genetically modified) or GMO ("genetically modified organisms") refer to organisms that have been created through the gene-splicing techniques of biotechnology. This relatively new science allows DNA from one species to be injected into another species in a laboratory, creating combinations of plant, animal, bacteria, and viral genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods.



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We, the following, support the attached GE Free Victoria resolution:

1. Dr. Nancy Turner, Distinguished Professor, Environmental Studies and Hakai Professor in Ethnoecology, UVic;
2. Dr. Eric Higgs, Professor, Environmental Studies, UVic;
3. Dr. Jeremy L. Caradonna, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Studies, UVIC;
Owner of Share Organics, Victoria, BC.
4. Megan Parris, Gobox Organics;
5. Dionne Laslo-Baker, Ph.D. | Founder & CEO, DeeBee's SpecialTea Foods, Victoria, BC
6. Donna Rigollet, R.N., CCN(C), Victoria, BC
7. Eric Rigollet, Victoria, BC
8. Alison Hunter, Victoria, BC
9. Afra Rigollet, Oak Bay, BC
10. Daniel Rigollet, Oak Bay, BC
11. Elizabeth Peddie, Victoria, BC
12. Sandra Mui, Saanich, BC
13. Josee Magas, Victoria, BC
14. Dennis Oliphant, Victoria, BC
15. Meagan Oliphant, Victoria, BC
16. R. Nevraumont, Victoria, BC
17. Kerry Yakimovich, Victoria, BC
18. Doug Yakimovich, Victoria, BC
19. Tina Saunders, Victoria, BC
20. Wayde Saunders, Victoria, BC
21. Jody Jackson, Shawnigan Lake, BC
22. Marc Jackson, Shawnigan Lake, BC
23. Misty Britskaya, Victoria, BC
24. Laura Doyle, Brentwood Bay, BC
25. Judy Gaylord, Saanich, BC
26. Marion Pape, Victoria, BC
27. Tony Beck, Salt Spring Island, BC, GE Free BC
28. Teresa Lynne, Tri-Cities, BC, GE Free BC
29. Natalie Chambers, Organic Grower, Saanich, BC, Madrona Farm
30. Robin Tunnicliffe, Certified Organic Grower, Saanich Organics & Sea Bluff Farm
Vendor at the Moss Street and James Bay Markets, Victoria, BC
31. Rachel Dickens, RD, CDE, Registered Dietitian, Victoria, BC
32. Yvonne McGregor, R.N.(C), B.S.N, Victoria, BC
33. Louise Cole, North Saanich, BC
34. Christine and Mel Johnston, Victoria BC
35. Betty Sherwood, Esquimalt, BC