

# Canada's food safe

BY LORNE HEPWORTH, THE STARPHOENIX MAY 31, 2013

Re: Monsanto focus of protest (SP, May 27). I'm concerned to read that some people are so worried about the safety of genetically modified foods that they have taken to the streets.

I would like to add to the conversation by providing some information that may help relieve their concerns.

Canadians have access to one of the safest and most abundant food supplies in the world. All crops, including crops that have been genetically modified, are subject to Canada's strict regulatory standards. Extensive safety reviews are completed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada to ensure that all crops are safe for people, animals and the environment.

Crops improved through modern plant breeding enjoy a remarkable food safety record, having been grown for well over a decade and eaten by billions of people worldwide. In fact, regulatory agencies around the world, as well as highly regarded international organizations like the World Health Organization, have endorsed the safety of these enhanced crops.

Canadian farmers choose to grow genetically improved varieties of corn, canola, soybeans and other crops because these offer many benefits, including increased yields and pest control. This also benefits the environment by allowing farmers to grow more food on less land, leaving valuable green spaces and wildlife intact. Farmers are also able to minimize or even eliminate tilling the soil to control weeds, which enriches the soil and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Consumers benefit at the grocery store by having safe, affordable food with the help of plant biotechnology.

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