

Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee
Eighteenth Meeting – October 8-9, 2003,
Summary Notes

PARTICIPANTS

CBAC Members

Dr. Arnold Naimark (Chair), Gloria Bishop, Pierre Coulombe, Pete Desai, Barry Glickman, Arthur Hanson, Mary Alton Mackey, Anne Mitchell, Peter Phillips

CBAC Staff

Kim Elmslie (Executive Director), Conrad Bellehumeur, Brian Colton, Lidia Guerra, Richard Konchak, Anne Malo, Marnie McCall, Sandra Stevenson, Roy Atkinson (Special Advisor to CBAC)

Regrets

Conrad Brunk, Timothy Caulfield, Lyne Létourneau, René Simard, Denny Warner

BUSINESS

Routine Matters

1. Dr. Naimark welcomed members and outlined two important objectives for the meeting, namely examining CBAC's modus operandi to increase its effectiveness and developing a workplan, with an emphasis on the Biotechnology in Health Innovation (BHI) project.
2. He drew the Committee's attention to the resignations of Doug Kilburn, Laura Shanner, and Lorne Babiuk and to the decision by René Simard not to stand for reappointment.
3. Dr. Naimark updated the membership on his recent meeting with Nabila Gillett from Treasury Board regarding the cyclical review of the Canadian Biotechnology Strategy.
4. The minutes of the April and June 2003 meetings were approved.

Retreat Portion of the Meeting

5. Dr. Naimark identified the overarching goal of the retreat as an exploration of how CBAC can best discharge its mandate. To that effect, he requested that Kim

Elmslie facilitate a session that explored four key points: taking stock; expectations of membership; ways of working; and success factors.

Workplanning Session

6. Kimberly Elmslie presented a summary report of the CBAC budget that shows a free balance of \$145K for the remainder of the fiscal year. Following an overview of projects under consideration, the Committee decided to build on three current projects in the area of privacy and genetic information; the incorporation of social and ethical issues into public policy; and follow-up to the GM food report. In addition, members decided to undertake projects submitted by Industry Canada and Health Canada, including the *Maximizing Value in Health Biotechnology Research* project (Industry Canada); the *Health Canada Biotechnology Framework* project; and the *Federal Government Stewardship Framework* (Health Canada) project. Three proposals submitted by CBAC members were also considered, namely an annual meeting of federal advisory bodies; the biotechnology, sustainable development and the biological economy project; and the advanced technology, brain and behaviour project.

Report on the Biotechnology and Health Innovation Project

7. The Committee's discussion revolved around four points: comments on the Phase I document; a review of the framework; agreement on priorities; and the identification of next steps. It is anticipated that the final report will be available by March 31, 2004.

Presentations

8. Joy Kane, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Justice Canada, along with several members of the Genetic Information and Privacy Working Group, presented the results of their work over the past year.
9. Gail Miller, Director, Cross-Sectoral Policy Development Division, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, presented a slide deck entitled *Developing an Approach to the Responsible Introduction of New Products of Agriculture Innovation*.