



Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee

News Release

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CANADIAN INNOVATION: THE INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION IMPERATIVE

(Toronto, November 19, 2002) – If Canada is to capture the benefits of biotechnology while managing the risks, and the social and ethical challenges, we will need to transform our institutions, the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee said in a statement today. CBAC is the panel of volunteer experts that advises the Government of Canada on biotechnology issues.

“As Canada moves to benefit from biotechnology, we need to develop new ways to ensure that Canadians in all sectors of society and all regions have access to the benefits.” Dr. Arnold Naimark, CBAC’s Chairman, said. “Innovation should be seen not simply as the invention of new products and processes, but as a creative activity that takes place within an institutional transformation imperative. Identifying and successfully introducing innovations requires involvement from every part of Canadian society in this process.”

Biotechnology has the potential to change many aspects of society as did telecommunications and information technologies, and therefore can be expected to make a major contribution to achieving the objectives of Canada’s Innovation Strategy.

Biotechnology based innovations can provide important benefits for health, environment, quality of life and the economy. They can also challenge our values and our capacity to exercise appropriate stewardship.

During the coming months, CBAC will provide advice to federal Ministers on short-term issues and opportunities associated with biotechnological innovation, and provide advice on pathways for longer-term institutional transformation.

CBAC is a body of external volunteer experts in the fields of science, business, nutrition, law, the environment, ethics and public advocacy, established by the Government of Canada to provide integrated advice on the full range of biotechnology issues. CBAC reports to the Biotechnology Ministerial Co-ordinating Committee consisting of the federal ministers of Industry, Health, Environment, Agriculture and Agri-Food, Natural Resources, Fisheries and Oceans, and International Trade.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: A copy of the statement may be obtained from our website www.cbac-cccb.ca or further information, contact:

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