

News Release

12 March 2002

CBAC TO APPEAR BEFORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH - 12 March 2002

The Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee (CBAC) is pleased to accept an invitation to appear before the Standing Committee on Health. The Committee is currently holding hearings on the best options for meeting consumers' information needs with respect to genetically modified foods.

Appearing for CBAC will be the Chair, Dr. Arnold Naimark, and the co-chairs of CBAC's GM food project: Dr. Peter Phillips and Mme. Suzanne Hendricks.

"We are delighted to appear before the Committee," said Dr. Naimark. "The issues surrounding labelling of GM foods are highly contentious. This gives us an opportunity to talk directly to parliamentarians about the public response to our Interim Report on the topic, and to examine the issues raised by the suggestion that GM food is labelled."

CBAC is an independent, arms-length committee of experts that advises the federal government on broad policy issues associated with various aspects of biotechnology. In August 2001, CBAC released an interim report titled *Improving the Regulation of Genetically Modified Foods and Other Novel Foods in Canada*. Since then, CBAC has received over 200 separate submissions in reaction to its report, and will publish a final version in April of this year.

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