



News Release

THE CANADIAN BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RELEASES ITS THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

(Toronto, April 15, 2003) – In 2002, Canada, like other countries, continued its efforts to come to grips with the ever-widening horizons created by biotechnological advances and by the social and ethical challenges inherent in them, according to the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee (CBAC) in its third Annual Report released today. The report summarizes the committee's work during the calendar year 2002.

“This has been a particularly active year for CBAC. Following almost two years of intensive research and consultations the committee issued two comprehensive reports, while continuing to monitor national and international developments in biotechnology and initiating a new work plan,” said Dr. Naimark, CBAC's Chairman.

The report covers:

- Completion of two major projects with the release of the reports on *Improving the Regulation of Genetically Modified Foods* and *Patenting of Higher Life Forms*;
- CBAC's new theme – Biotechnology in Canadian Society;
- CBAC's Advisory Memoranda to the Biotechnology Ministerial Coordinating Committee on the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on the Harvard onco-mouse; and
- An assessment of key biotechnology trends, developments and breakthroughs that provide the context for CBAC's ongoing deliberations.

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 2002 Annual Report can be obtained from our web site www.cbac-cccb.ca or further information, contact:

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