



THE RAM'S HORN

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Idle No More

by Cathleen Kneen

The exclusive focus on resource extraction and export as the definition of The Economy continues to devastate our capacity to feed ourselves. One can only assume that Harper & Co. ignore the contamination of land and water, the pollution and loss of animal and fish species, and diseases affecting pollinators – all results of industrial agriculture (GMOs) and industrial ‘development’ of the other extractive industries (mines and oil & gas) – because they assume that the population can be nourished by synthetic foodstuffs.

Scientists have used imaging tests to show for the first time that fructose can trigger brain changes that may lead to overeating. Fructose, and particularly the synthetic high-fructose corn syrup which saturates the North American diet, is linked to obesity because, unlike glucose, it does not trigger the brain function that makes people feel satisfied and therefore stop eating.
– G&M, 3/1/13

The emergence of the Idle No More movement, started by four Indigenous women in November in opposition to Bill C-45, the federal government’s 2012 fall budget implementation act, has forced a national focus on a wide range of federal policies affecting indigenous Canadians. These include the violation of First Nations treaty rights, in particular the right to consultation regarding changes to laws protecting the environment, and attempts to assimilate them through legislation affecting their finances and internal governance. It has also sparked a nationwide movement to oppose the provisions in Bill C-45 and its predecessor, C-38, which (among much else that is objectionable) slashed measures to protect land and waterways. Reflecting Harper’s contemptuous attitude (his government was formally found in contempt

of Parliament in March 2011), both bills were rammed through the house by Harper’s Conservative majority with minimal debate permitted.

[Bill C-45] contains provisions that facilitate large-scale resource-extraction such as the widely known Tar Sands Project. The legislation scales back federal protection of oceans, waterways systems, and fishing habitats opening the door for corporations to exploit the waters, minerals and natural resources, including those in the aboriginal and treaty lands of Indigenous Nations. In addition, almost 3,000 environmental assessments were cancelled, as new rules were put in place to ensure that there would be fewer (and less comprehensive) environmental assessments in the future.

Dr. Debra Harry, Executive Director for the Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism, said “The legislation resonates with Indigenous Peoples around the world who have endured similar injustices historically and in contemporary times, including here in the Great Basin of the USA, the homelands of the Numu, Newe, and Wa-she-shu Peoples.” She added, “Indigenous Peoples are concerned about our right of self-determination, land, water, and treaty rights. That is why we are seeing this movement grow locally and internationally.”

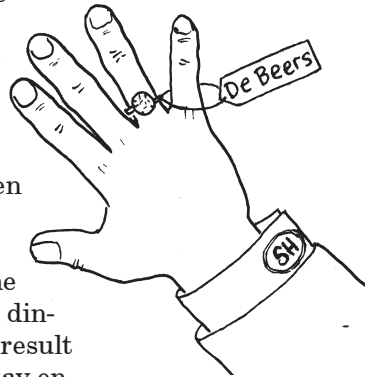
– <http://electricnevada.org/eNews/IdleNoMore>

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While many Canadians have been seething with frustration at the moral corruption of this government, conditions on remote Reserves have gone from bad to worse. A typical case is Attawapiskat, on the shores of James Bay, which has watched immense profits extracted from a De Beers diamond mine on their territory while the community continues to live in utterly inadequate housing. Chief Theresa Spence finally began a hunger strike, subsisting on fish broth and medicinal teas, demanding that the Prime Minister and Governor General meet with Indigenous leaders on treaty rights.

A meeting did happen between some Assembly of First Nations leaders and the Prime Minister, and the Governor General hosted a dinner for the chiefs, but the result was simply a promise to “stay engaged” with no firm commitment to any real change. Arthur Manuel, spokesperson for Defenders of the Land and the Indigenous Network on Economies and Trade, and former Chief of the Neskoniith Indian Band, Secwepemc Nation, commented that the process does not offer any guarantee that Harper’s unilateral policies will be reversed or replaced with policies supportive to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. “The Harper government does not recognize Aboriginal and Treaty Rights on the ground. Indigenous Peoples believe in Aboriginal and Treaty Rights on the ground,” he said. “That is the fundamental difference. Harper must recognize Aboriginal and Treaty Rights on the ground before we can engage. . . . on how do we divide up decision making regarding ‘access and benefits’ to our Aboriginal and Treaty territories. To try and engage and negotiate with opposite differences on ‘recognition’ and ‘extinguishment’ is dangerous and will go nowhere.”



HARPER IS ENGAGED

Building on the movement to stop the pipeline proposed by Enbridge, which brought indigenous and settler people together on the basis of the threat to the environment, the Idle No More movement has galvanized aboriginal women and youth to stand up and take leadership, and has spread across Canada and around the world. While differences of opinion and approach of course continue, there are two important new developments as a result: First, the recognition that the relationship between people and the natural world is spiritual as well as physical; second, under the motto “we are all Treaty people”, that the task of decolonization here in Canada is one for all of us to take up.

As Food Secure Canada said in its statement of support for Idle No More:

We stand with and respect indigenous leaders. With sadness and outrage we recognize that those currently on hunger strikes follow generations of Indigenous mothers who have gone hungry for the sake of their children. Indigenous peoples are literally starving for justice.

The food insecurity and disease that Indigenous communities struggle against every day are symptoms of a deep and tragic dysfunction that rests squarely on the shoulders of Canada’s colonial policies of forcible assimilation and resource appropriation. To remove Indigenous People’s traditional means of life and livelihood, undermine their rights to foster traditional food practices such as hunting, gathering and fishing, destroy the land and contaminate the water that have sustained them since time immemorial, and blame them for their resultant poverty and disease, are tragic abuses of human rights, dignity and justice.

New Zealand: Maori Act to Protect the Environment

Tai Tokerau Iwi [Maori tribes] have expressed their concerns regarding the removal of Genetically Modified Organisms from the proposed Northland Regional Policy Statement. A *Hui* to discuss Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) was hosted by Te Runanga A Iwi O Ngapuhi last week. Iwi and invited guests were called upon to discuss Northland Regional Council’s proposed Regional Policy Statement which has removed any provisions for managing or controlling Genetically Modified Organisms throughout Northland.

“GMOs are an affront to Tikanga Maori and whakapapa, a breach of the Treaty of Waitangi and a threat to both the health and wellbeing of Maori, including the environment and conventional and organic agriculture,” declared Percy Tipene, hui attendee.

Under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO), there is insufficient liability for GMOs and it is unacceptable that ratepayers will be paying the price for unforeseen or forewarned problems relating to GMOs.

Representatives from Iwi throughout the north agreed that the analysis must be flawed to exclude GE/GMO from the Regional Policy Statement as a significant risk. One of the many reasons behind this conclusion is that GMO release has huge cultural, economic and environmental risks. Issues that have a positive or negative effect on Northland must be included in the Regional Policy Statement.

Abe Witana, Te Rarawa’s Environmental Manager, revealed, “there must be consistency similar to heritage management that has many protective layers. Leaving one agency, the sole protector and gatekeeper will fail not only Maori but all New Zealanders”. – *Scoop, NZ, 20/11/12*

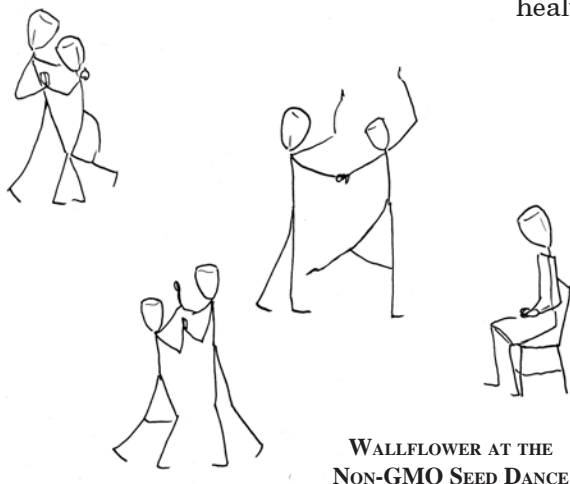
GMO Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Greenpeace reports that Poland has now adopted regulations which prohibit cultivation on the Polish territories two genetically modified crops: MON 810 maize from Monsanto and BASF Amflora potato. From now on, a farmer who plants either crop may face severe financial penalties and even the destruction of the crop.

This follows the new policy of the EU, which forbids member States to ban the sales of genetically modified seeds, which the Polish Seed Act had allowed since 2005. Now the Act had to be amended under threat of heavy fines from the EU.

The seeds can now be sold but cannot be planted. In other words, you can have them, but you can't do anything with them. Greenpeace reports that eight EU countries, including France and Germany, have banned the cultivation of GMOs in their territory.

To justify the enactment of these regulations, the Ministry of Agriculture stated that GM crops and natural varieties cannot coexist without the risk of contamination. The Ministry also drew attention to the threat of contamination of honey by pollen of maize MON 810 and the lack of research supporting the safety of GM crops on the environment and human health.



Séralini-Glyphosate update

[see page 2, RH #293, Nov 2012]

CRIIGEN – Committee for Research and Independent Information on Genetic Engineering – is a French independent non-profit organization of scientific counter-expertise to study GMOs, pesticides and impacts of pollutants on health and environment, and to develop non polluting alternatives.

The study of the relatively long-term effects on rats of ingesting Monsanto's Roundup glyphosate herbicide (it was a 90 day study – three times as long as any industry studies) has become one of the most frequently accessed in the world since it was published in September 2012 in the journal *Food and Chemical Toxicology*. The journal, one of the best in the field, did not retract the study, despite relentless pressure to do so. Now it has published the Séralini team's detailed answers to critics online.

Negative criticisms came from around 40 scientists or groups, including agencies responsible for GMO or pesticide authorisations. Most were subsequently revealed to have conflicts of interest, either directly with Monsanto or with other commercial interests, or with bodies that had previously authorized the commercialization of these or similar products.

In addition, most of the critics are not specialists in the areas of pesticide toxicology or GMO risk assessment and do not publish papers on these topics. On the other hand, CRIIGEN and the research team have received statements of support and positive comments from more than 300 scientists from 33 countries across five continents. In the opinion of the Séralini team, these scientists are more representative of the scientific community at large.

Séralini's team and CRIIGEN have just filed complaints of defamation against claims of "fraud" and "falsified data" that were respectively published in "Marianne" and "La Provence" by Jean-Claude Jaillette and Claude Allégre. Allégre is a member of the French association for plant biotechnologies, AFBV, which was convicted of defamation against Séralini's team in 2011.

In 2013 Séralini's team and CRIIGEN will launch other legal actions to force disclosure of hidden and poor quality toxicological data. These data were used by the regulatory agencies to enable the commercial release of the products that CRIIGEN tested, among others. To set an example, CRIIGEN is arranging the formal delivery of the raw data of their last study to a notary, and will make these public as soon as the regulatory agencies or Monsanto do the same for their data, or when governments consent to publish the industry data.

"Thus the scientific community will have full access to all the data on these industrial products. This will enable a true assessment, contradictory and transparent, and not a pseudo-assessment distorted by lobbies that are more concerned with protecting their own interests than with public health."

– CRIIGEN Press Release, 11/1/13

The Unbearable Wholeness of Being

Stephen L. Talbott, writing in the newsletter of The Nature Institute, "In Context", aims to make new work in molecular biology accessible to the general public, under the title "What Do Organisms Mean? Toward a Biology Worthy of Life". The material is also engagingly presented on their website. Below are some excerpts.

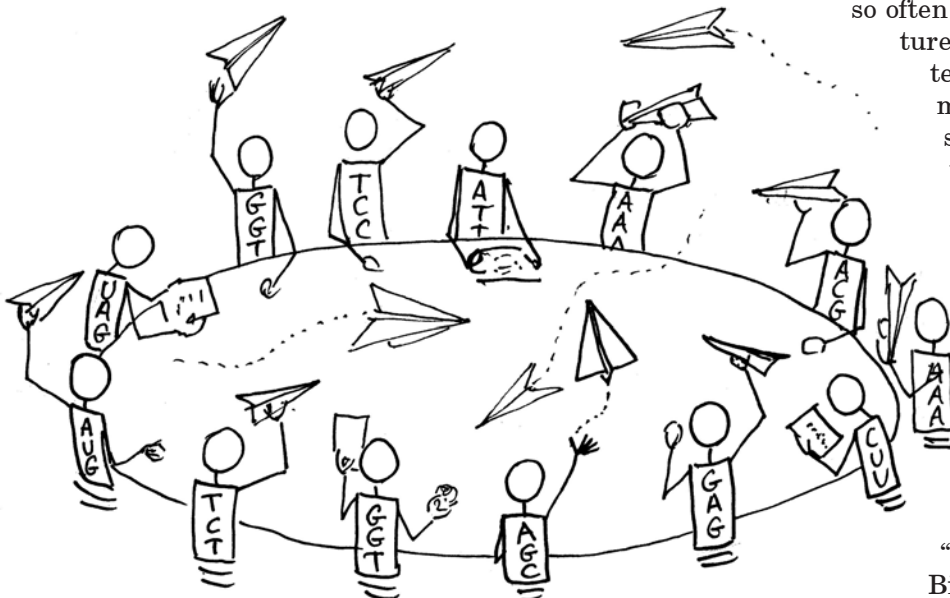
[N]ew molecular "mechanisms", isolated from the organism as a whole, continue to be proclaimed daily. But when we restore these products of our one-sided methods to their living contexts, allowing them to speak their own meanings, what they actually show us is this: every organism is intent upon telling the eloquent story of its own life. Its living intentions govern and coordinate the lawful physical performance of its body, not the other way around. . . . In the conventional machine model of the organism, signaling pathways were straightforward, with a clearcut input at the start of the pathway leading to an equally clearcut output at the end. Not so today, as a team of molecular biologists at the Free University of Brussels found out when they looked at how these pathways interact or "crosstalk" with each other. Tabulating the cross-signalings between just four such pathways . . . we see a "collaborative" process that can be "pictured as a table around which decision-makers debate a question and respond collectively to information put to them". . . .

Our problem lies in adequately imagining the reality. When a single protein can combine with several hundred different modifier molecules, leading to prac-

tically infinite combinatorial possibilities, and when that protein itself is an infinitesimal point in the vast, turbulent molecular sea of continual exchange that is the cell, and when the cell is one instance of maybe 100 trillion cells of some 250 different major types in the human body, from muscle to bone, from liver to brain, from blood to retina – well, it's understandable that many researchers prefer not to stare too long at the larger picture. Nevertheless, we should keep in mind that the collaborative process mentioned above involves not just one table with "negotiators" gathered around it, but countless tables with countless participants, and with messages flying back and forth in countless patterns as countless "decisions" are made in a manner somehow subordinated to the unity and multidimensioned interests of the organism as a whole. . . . Whenever we imagine a biological process aimed at achieving some particular result, we need to keep in mind that every element in that process is likely playing a role in an indeterminate number of other significant, and seemingly goal-directed, activities. . . .

What we see – once we start following out all the interactions at a molecular level – is not some mechanism dictating the fate or controlling an activity of the organism, but simply an organism-wide coherence – a living, metamorphosing form of activity – within which the more or less distinct partial activities find their proper place. *The misrepresentation of this organic coherence in favour of supposed controlling mechanisms is not an innocent inattention to language; it's a fundamental misrepresentation of reality at the central point where we are challenged to understand the character of living things. . . .*

To realize the full significance of the truth so often remarked in the technical literature today – namely, that context matters . . . means reversing one of the most deeply engrained habits within science – the habit of explaining the whole as the result of its parts. If an organic context really does rule its parts in the way molecular biologists are beginning to recognize, then we have to learn to speak about that peculiar form of governance, turning our usual causal explanations upside down. We have to learn to explain the part as an expression of a larger, contextual unity. (from the chapter "Getting Over the Code Delusion: Biology's Awakening")
 –<http://natureinstitute.org/txt/st/org/index.htm>



MESSAGES FLYING AROUND THE TABLE

Corporate News & Updates

Renewable fuel lobby shifts focus

The Canadian Renewable Fuels Association has dropped its demand that the Harper government increase the current 5% ethanol mandate for gasoline content to 10%. Instead, the Association is concentrating on lobbying the federal government to increase the content mandate for biodiesel from 2% to 5%.

The retreat is largely due to the fact that the Canadian ethanol industry does not have the capacity to meet the 5% mandate now in place and is asking for more government subsidy to expand production capacity. Canada imports as much as 10% of the ethanol it needs to meet the 5% mandate in gasoline.

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

The agro-toxin-biotech lobby, officially referred to as CropLife Canada, used to be CACA, the Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association. CropLife Canada describes itself as “the trade association representing the manufacturers, developers and distributors of plant science innovations; pest control products and plant biotechnology.” Their announcement of their “selected” executive committee confirms their corporate identity and states that, “Canadian farmers make important economic, environmental and social contributions through the work they do and our industry is proud to help them do so. Our board is committed to increasing public awareness about why our technologies matter, to ensuring proper product stewardship and to working with governments to ensure that Canada does not fall behind in the on-going competition for valuable research dollars.”

The last phrase is telling. CropLife is apparently emphasizing the importance of public subsidization to its ability to draw research and development funding (“investment”). In other words, what are misleadingly called public-private *partnerships* actually mean that the public puts up the money and the private sector (the corporate “partner”) provides the agenda for product research – which then reverts to their private property.

Corporate Takeovers

ConAgra Foods Inc. has agreed to pay \$4.95 billion for Ralcorp Holdings, maker of private-label foods. Ralcorp was once a real food company going by the name Ralston Purina, maker of Cream of Wheat breakfast cereal, Shreddies and other familiar brands. The combined

company will be the second largest food company with \$18 billion in annual sales. Kraft Foods is #1 with sales of \$19 billion.

– *GM, 28 / 11 / 12*



Saputo snaps up Morningstar Foods: For \$1.45 billion, Canada’s largest dairy processor, best known for its cheeses (it started making mozzarella for Montreal’s Italian community 50 years ago) is buying Morningstar Foods from its parent company, Dean Foods. Saputo has made 21 acquisitions over the past 15 years to become the global cheese and dairy company it is today, being the second largest dairy processor in the US and operating in Argentina as well as Europe. – *GM, 4 / 12 / 12*

Rather than viewing this as the story of a successful capitalist family business, the question that needs to be asked is, Who benefits? Anyone outside the company owners? Are people better fed, including the hungry? A *Globe & Mail* editorial notes, approvingly, “Over the long run . . . business exists to grow.” Are there no better uses for \$1.45 billion than engaging in GROWTH?



“The Exchange industry”: IntercontinentalExchange Inc. is buying NYSE Euronext Ltd, the parent company of the New York Stock Exchange, for \$8.2 billion in cash and stock. With roots stretching back to 1792, the NYSE now accounts for only about 20% of the trading in its listed stocks, down from 80% a decade ago. The deal could spark a new round of deal-making in the exchange industry, suggests the *Globe & Mail*. – *G&M, 20 / 12 / 12*

“IntercontinentalExchange, a leading operator of global markets and clearing houses, and NYSE Euronext, the preeminent global equity, equity options and fixed income derivatives market operator, have agreed that ICE acquire NYSE Euronext in an \$8.2 billion stock-and-cash transaction. The acquisition combines two leading exchange groups to create a premier global exchange operator diversified across markets including agricultural and energy commodities, credit derivatives, equities and equity derivatives, foreign exchange and interest rates.”

– *europeanequities.nyx.com / en / product-news*

Just in case anyone thought that competition was the golden rule of capitalism, look at the list of ICE’s and Euronext’s financial advisors. How many more ‘advisors’ could squeeze into a single bed?

“ICE’s lead financial advisor is Morgan Stanley; further financial advice is being provided by BMO Capital Markets Corp., Broadhaven Capital Partners,



JPMorgan, Lazard, Societe Generale Corporate & Investment Banking, and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC. ICE legal advisors are Sullivan & Cromwell LLP and Shearman & Sterling LLP. The principal financial advisers to NYSE Euronext are Perella Weinberg Partners and BNP Paribas. Legal advisers to NYSE Euronext are Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, Slaughter & May, and Stibbe N.V. Further financial advice to NYSE Euronext is being provided by Blackstone Advisory Partners, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs & Co. and Moelis & Co.” – *europeanequities.nyx.com/en/product-news*

Monsanto Executive Compensation

There is no way anyone can ‘earn’ \$14 million in one year, or even \$1 million. There just aren’t enough hours in the day – or year. However, Monsanto says its executives’ pay is based on a pay-for-performance model. So just how many performances can they do in a year? They must be very short performances. [*Illustrator’s note: Brewster won’t let me publish my drawings of very short performances.*]

Monsanto Co. CEO Hugh Grant will receive \$14.2 million in 2012, an increase of 23% from \$11.6 million in 2011. In a preliminary proxy statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company said Grant will receive a base salary of \$1.4 million, \$1.9 million in stock awards, \$4.1 million in option awards, \$5 million in non-equity incentive plan compensation, \$1.2 million change in pension value and nonqualified deferred compensation earnings and \$548,072 in other compensation, which includes perquisites like the personal use of corporate aircraft of \$218,741, home security expenses, and entertainment expenses. Pierre Courduroux, senior vice president and chief financial officer, will earn a total of \$2.9 million in 2012.

Monsanto says the rewards reflect the company’s performance. Net sales for fiscal 2012 were \$13.5 billion, up 14% from fiscal 2011. Earnings per share reached \$3.70, an increase of 25%, the filing stated.

“Our company achieved significantly improved financial results for fiscal 2012, attributable to excellent operational performance and substantial growth across our global business,” according to the filing. “Our CEO and his executive team led the implementation of our disciplined growth strategy, focusing on bringing more product choices to our farmer customers to enable them to maximize yield on their lands to support a growing world population. Execution of this strategy enabled us to achieve financial, business and organizational results.”

Brett Begemann, president and chief commercial

officer, will get \$4.1 million in 2012; Robert Fraley, executive vice president and chief technology officer, will get \$4.6 million; David Snively, executive vice president, secretary and general counsel, will get \$3.1 million. – *source: St. Louis Business Journal, 21/11/12*

This is peanuts compared to the “compensation” collected by JP Morgan Chase & Co.’s top executive Jamie Dimon: \$11.5 million.

Financialization of Food

One of the clearest and most succinct explanations of this whole situation that we have seen is contained in the following abstract of a lecture by Jennifer Clapp at the University of Waterloo.

Under the title *The Financialization of Food: Implications for Hunger and the Environment*, Clapp “looks at the forces and actors involved in the financial investment in agriculture, how financialization manifests and with what impact for global hunger and the environment. She argues that financialization has given new actors – financial investors, including banks, financial services arms of agricultural trading firms, and large-scale institutional investors – greater influence over outcomes in the food system.

“There are two important implications of this development. First, a new kind of ‘distancing’ has emerged within the food system whereby financialization increases the number of the actors and the steps involved in global agrifood commodity chains while at the same time it abstracts food from its physical form into highly complex agricultural commodity ‘derivatives’ that are largely opaque to the general public.

“Second, because food-related financial transactions take place largely outside of public view, the ‘real world’ physical implications of increased investment are not always transparent to the outside observer or even to the investors themselves. While these investments may be only ‘virtual’ for financial investors, they generate a number external costs that have a real influence on the world’s poorest people and the natural environment.”

To our surprise, the Globe and Mail actually raised a good question about the financial sector: “Four years after the financial crisis of 2008, Canada’s financial sector has never been bigger. Is that something to be proud of or something to fear?” – *GM, 22/12/12*

Low-Level Contamination

Sometimes the level of attention required to monitor the machinations of the Harper Government is a bit overwhelming. Just ask the citizens who read through the 400+ pages of the last two “omnibus” budget bills. One of their favourite smoke-screens is “consultation” with “stakeholders”, often involving nothing more than the establishment of a comment period on the government website. Sometimes, however, there are actual meetings, such as the one I attended recently for the Organic Sector with Agriculture Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency personnel.

While much of the world is carefully considering, and reconsidering, approval of GMOs, the Harper government is determined to support the growth of the biotech industry in Canada. Sometimes its approach borders on the devious, as with the current proposal for a policy on the Low-Level Presence (LLP) of GMOs in grain imported into Canada – despite the fact that Canada is a grain exporter, not importer. In fact, this is a pre-emptive move to protect Canada’s markets for GMO grain by getting the policy established and then make it reciprocal. They’re pushing forward on this, despite the fact that the EU is not interested.

The proposed policy says that threshold levels for LLP would be established by crop type, taking into consideration ‘unavoidable’ factors which could lead to the ‘unintentional’ presence. Action to stop the importation would be taken after a Canadian risk assessment of the GM crop has been completed and has determined that the low level presence of the GMO is “unlikely to pose a risk to human health or the environment”. Since the Canadian position on GMOs is that there is no real risk in feed grains or grains for milling, this is specious to say the least.

The Organic representatives at the meeting stated unequivocally that accepting any level of GMO in grain

(the government will get to other agricultural products later) will be devastating to the growing Certified Organic markets. My guess is that these protests will fall silently into a dark hole. However, sustainably-produced food is increasingly understood as critical to population (not to mention environmental) health, so I continue to hope I am proved wrong. – C.K.

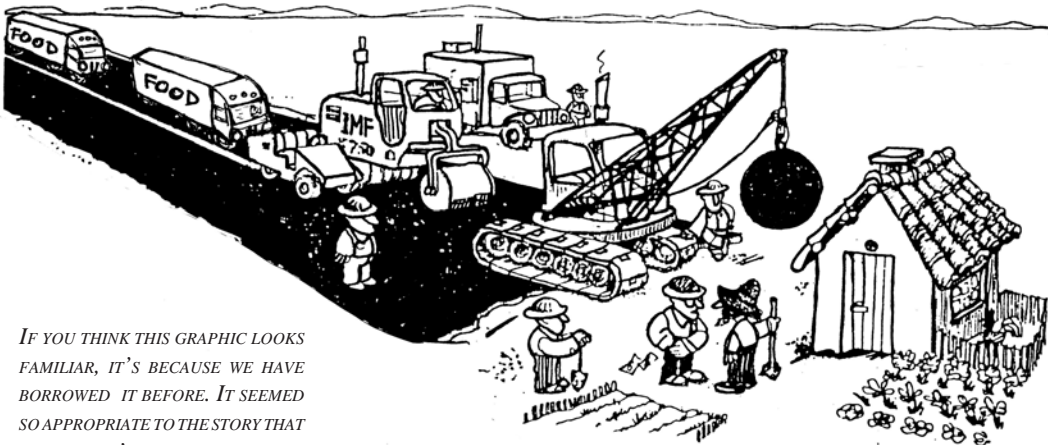
Wrecking Rural Communities

The idea of a national food strategy for Canada is gaining traction. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture has apparently even registered the phrase. While the heavy hitter in this game is *Resetting the Table: A People’s Food Policy for Canada*, produced by Food Secure Canada after a three year process involving about 3,500 people across the country, those committed to the current model have been working hard to preempt the process.

The big-business Conference Board of Canada is refreshingly clear about its position, stating that a new food policy is needed in order to increase trade. It says “the sky is the limit” for Canada’s food industry because of growing world demand, but only if major policy reforms are made toward a more market-driven sector, including phasing out supply management. The Conference Board report says the agriculture sector should be subjected to the “creative destruction” that faces most business sectors that either adapt to market forces or go out of business. – WP 14/12/12

One might have thought that any “national food strategy” would recognize the strategic importance of optimum nourishment of the the population. The Conference Board, however, along with the Federation of Agriculture and others, suffers from an obsession with production and export markets which veers close to idolatry. So, let market forces sweep their way across

the landscape, destroying those who aren’t up to competing with the big guys despite the benefits they may offer local communities, and certainly get rid of supply management which has given farmers stable and predictable incomes. Much better to increase farm size and debt, along with corporate profits.



IF YOU THINK THIS GRAPHIC LOOKS FAMILIAR, IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE BORROWED IT BEFORE. IT SEEMED SO APPROPRIATE TO THE STORY THAT WE COULDN'T RESIST.

A Hotter World Is a Hungry World

by *Stephen Leahy*

Food prices will soar and hundreds of millions will starve without urgent action to make major cuts in fossil fuel emissions, which are already disrupting the world's climate, making extreme weather events like droughts, floods and storms more damaging.

Agriculture and food production are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, several scientific studies show. "It is very strange there is no emphasis on food security here in Doha," said Michiel Schaeffer, a scientist with Climate Analytics. Climate Analytics, along with Germany's Pik Potsdam Institute, prepared the World Bank report "Turn Down the Heat" that warns many parts of the world won't be able to grow food if global temperatures rise by four degrees Celsius.

The report warns that humanity is on the path to a world with unprecedented heat waves, severe drought, and major floods, with serious impacts on ecosystems and agriculture. A four-degree-C-warmer world means an average of four to 10 degrees warming over land, too warm for many crucial food crops. Large parts of Africa, China, India, Mexico and the southern United States will suffer declines for that reason, said Schaeffer. There will also be significant changes in rainfall patterns and higher evaporation levels.

Research shows that even at two degrees C of warming, there will be serious food production problems at regional levels. If temperatures go beyond three degrees, it becomes a global problem. Without major reductions in fossil fuel emissions, a three- to four-degree C world collides with peak population growth. "This will be catastrophic," said Schaeffer.

"African negotiators are throwing their hands up in despair, and asking why they should even bother coming to the negotiations, if the developed countries continue to wring more demands from us in return for no money or commitments," said Seyni Nafu of Mali and a spokesperson for the African Group of Negotiators in the U.N. climate talks. "This cynicism is at its most stark in the agriculture negotiations," Nafu said in a statement.

"Canada has become rich and prosperous from its huge fossil fuel industry. And here they are offering absolutely nothing to pay for their pollution of the atmosphere. What has gone wrong in Canada? They used to be a leader. Now they are one of the worst laggards, down at the bottom with the U.S.," says Celine Charveriat, Oxfam International.

– DOHA, Qatar, Dec 6,7, 2012 (IPS)



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