



## FLAX COUNCIL OF CANADA

### GMO Flax Update 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

*The Flax Council of Canada issues regular GMO Flax Updates to keep producers and industry informed on the actions being taken to resolve the current GMO flax issue. The notices are posted on the Flax Council of Canada's web page: [www.flaxcouncil.ca](http://www.flaxcouncil.ca). Readers should refer to earlier GMO Flax Updates for background information. Further information can be obtained by contacting Barry Hall, President, Flax Council of Canada at [flax@flaxcouncil.ca](mailto:flax@flaxcouncil.ca)*

#### **Canadian Government / European Union Talks**

- Representatives of the Canadian Government supported DG Sanco in the presentation of a Flax Protocol on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October to the GM Food and Feed and Environmental Risk section of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health with the European Union Member States.
- The Protocol was developed by the Canadian Government in consultation with the Flax Council of Canada and DG Sanco of the European Commission.
- The Protocol describes a system of sampling, testing, and documentation pertaining to the presence of FP967 (CDC Triffid) in shipments of Canadian flaxseed to the European Union (EU). Shipments sampled and tested in accordance with this protocol, accompanied by the documentation outlined, are designed to satisfy the EU zero tolerance policy for unauthorized GMOs as currently interpreted in the EU, i.e. no detection at a 0.01% level, 19 times out of 20.
- DG Sanco has given Member States time to discuss the Protocol with their respective governments. Therefore a decision is not expected until the week of 26<sup>th</sup> October.
- Some European crushers would like to see flax exports from Canada resume before the close of navigation on the St. Lawrence Seaway System but this will be difficult.
- Considerable work must be done to develop the sampling and testing capacity necessary to implement the Protocol and for companies to determine their capacity to meet the rigorous European standards.

#### **Note:**

- **Triffid has received regulatory approvals for food, feed and the environment in both Canada and the United States.**
- **Canadian flax remains safe for food, feed and processing.**
- **This is a regulatory issue, not a safety issue.**