

## **GMO Flax Update 23 December 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.*

### **Canadian Flaxseed Shipments to Brazil**

As you may be aware, the recent discovery of a low-level presence of GM material in a small number of shipments of Canadian flaxseed has effectively halted exports to certain key markets.

The Government of Canada and certain industry stakeholders have recently discovered that the Government of Brazil has ordered the mandatory testing of all flax shipments entering Brazil from Canada. This action was taken without any formal notification by the Government of Brazil.

The Government of Canada has engaged Brazilian authorities with a view to:

- Determining the basis for the action;
- Securing a commitment that no action will be taken against the imported product that tests positive for containing trace amounts of the GM variety FP967 or “CDC Triffid” and enters or remains in quarantine, without the consent of the Canadian exporter;
- Identifying actions that might be taken to secure the removal of these import measures.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Flax Council of Canada.