



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SITUATION UPDATE

CANADIAN FLAX IN EUROPEAN MARKETPLACE

WINNIPEG, MB (September 11th, 2009)

On September 8th, 2009 the European Commission issued a Rapid Alert notification, confirming the presence of CDC Triffid flax in some Canadian flax samples. To date, we have not seen any laboratory results that would prove this to be the case. We are working with the Canadian European Mission in Brussels to determine what prompted this action.

European labs have been testing Canadian flax and initial analytical results indicate, in some samples, the presence of NPTII, a genetic marker common to many GM crops. Some of these labs are now stating that this indicates the presence of CDC Triffid, a genetically modified flax, not approved for production in Canada.

The Flax Council of Canada considers the possibility of genetically modified flax to be a very serious issue.

The Council is also in discussion with Foreign Affairs International Trade Canada (DFAIT), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), to keep them apprised of the situation and enlist their assistance with potential trade issues.

In conjunction with industry experts and scientists, the Flax Council of Canada is working with Plant Biotechnology Institute in Canada and the Canadian Grain Commission's Grain Research Laboratory to establish a proper protocol that will conclusively determine if Canadian flax contains CDC Triffid. Since DNA testing is extremely sensitive, and technology has improved considerably in recent years, this protocol has to be carefully developed to ensure accurate and reliable results.

As these results become available, we will communicate further with you.

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For Further Information:

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