



KOOTENAY FOOD  
STRATEGY SOCIETY



*Sowing the seeds for an abundant, equitable and sustainable food system in the Kootenays...*

## Genetically-Engineered (G.E.) Free Kootenays

### Resolution for a Municipality-Region to be Free of Genetically-Engineered Plants and Trees

WHEREAS, the *Community Charter* grants councils the right and responsibility to council “impose requirements in relation to:

- (g) the health, safety or protection of persons or property in relation to matters referred to in section 63 [*protection of persons and property*];
- (h) the protection and enhancement of the well-being of its community in relation to the matters referred to in section 64 [*nuisances, disturbances and other objectionable situations*];
- (i) public health;
- (j) protection of the natural environment;
- (k) animals;

WHEREAS, The City of Nelson’s Official Community Plan states as a Goal in section 16.2

1. To maintain and enhance Nelson’s environmental quality and to safeguard it for future generations.
2. To ensure Nelson’s economic stability and well-being by promoting environmentally sustainable economic development.
3. To act locally toward the solution of regional, national and global environmental problems.

WHEREAS, genetically engineered (G.E.) foods have not been adequately tested by any federal agency for long-term impacts on human and environmental health;

WHEREAS, the federal government has yet to fully implement all of the recommendations issued by the Royal Society of Canada for the proper regulation of genetically engineered foods to prevent harm;

WHEREAS, it is currently not possible to prevent genetically engineered seeds and pollen flow from contaminating non-G.E. conventional and organic plants and trees, and wild plants.

WHEREAS, contamination from patented genetically engineered seeds undermines local farmers’ independence and exposes them to legal challenges from biotechnology companies;

WHEREAS, the prohibition of genetically engineered plants and trees would ensure the integrity of conventional and organic plants and trees and give local producers access to a developing non-GE market;

WHEREAS, the regulation of genetically engineered plants and trees is a municipal and/or regional affair and in the public interest;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the (*name of municipal/regional government*) hereby opposes the cultivation of genetically engineered plants and trees in the municipality/region of (*name of municipal/regional government*).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (*name of municipal/regional government*) agrees to revisit this resolution as pertinent new information becomes available that affects this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (*name of municipal government*) shall forward copies of this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, The Union of B.C. Municipalities, Interior Health, B.C. Ministry of Health, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, B.C. Provincial Health Officer, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Health Canada, CropLife Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, local MLA and MP offices and any interested and related groups.

#### Definitions:

For the purposes of this resolution the following terms are defined accordingly:

- (a) “Genetic Engineering and Modification / Genetically Engineered and Modified (G.E., G.M., G.M.O.)” refers to the direct manipulation of an organism’s DNA using recombinant DNA technology. For the purposes of this resolution genetic engineering does NOT include traditional selective breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, tissue culture, or marker assisted selection.