

May 28, 2012

City Council  
City of Richmond  
6911 No. 3 Road  
Richmond, BC  
V6Y 2C1

Schedule 3 to the minutes of the  
Regular Council meeting held on  
Monday, May 28, 2012

**Public Input Item 8: City of Richmond: Response to Genetically Engineered Free BC Resolution**

My name is Karen Morton, I am the President & Founder of EcoUrbia Network

- We are a local, not-for-profit society, provincially & federally registered
- We advocate for sustainable food systems, urban agriculture & ethical e-waste disposal
- We deliver public outreach programs related to food & waste

We have several urban farming projects in development across the north shore, with a mind to developing additional projects across our region.

Our intention is to increase local capacity & access to local, organically-grown fruits & vegetables, with a mandate to create local jobs, deliver hands-on education & operate on a cost-recovery model .

I personally initiated the urban farm concept in the City of North Vancouver, which led to the creation of the Loutet Park urban farm -> the FIRST community urban farm on the north shore, located on public land, currently operating under the governance of the Edible Garden Project.

**To this end**, I am here today as an advocate & proponent for sustainable food systems in support of GE Free Zones within our region & across our province.

**I commend Council's unanimous support in declaring the City of Richmond a "GE Free Zone".**

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this decision, and the implications it would have should this decision be reversed.

- It is also important to note that GE crops grown in Richmond would be marketed within the food supply across our region, and our province.

In the province of British Columbia, we are relatively free from GE food crops; the exception being GE corn currently being grown as feed for dairy cows,

- and the truth is, most people are unaware of this fact; and that
- we do not have a mandatory GMO food labelling requirement in Canada.

I would also argue that the economic implications are far greater should GMO crops be allowed to proliferate in the province of B.C.<sup>4</sup>

By creating a GE Free zone in Richmond, that this is an appropriate cautionary approach, which also proactively takes into account the possibility of “**unintended consequences**” as reiterated by Vancouver Coastal Health in their letter of April 26, 2012 to Margot Daykin, Manager, Sustainability, City of Richmond, of which I concur.

Thank You.

Sincerely,



Karen Morton  
President & Founder  
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Attachments:

1. *Why GMO Foods Should Be Labelled*, published in Organic Connections, Guest post by Dr. Opiyo Oloya
2. *Monsanto Threatens to Sue Vermont Over Bill to Label Genetically Modified Foods: Vermonters Stand Strong For Their Right to Know What They Are Eating* (April 13, 2012)
3. *Issues Surrounding Genetically Modified (GM) Products*, by Subhut Dharmananda, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Traditional Medicine, Portland, Oregon
4. *Genetically engineered (GE) crops and foods will not help farmers improve their financial and environmental sustainability*, A brief to the Prime Minister’s Caucus Task Force on Future Opportunities in Farming Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (CIELAP), November 7, 2001