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*For immediate release*

## **GM Canola Scandal Shows Inadequate Protection**

The contaminated canola seed scandal revealed in today's Globe & Mail demonstrates that Canadian public health and the environment are being inadequately protected, the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law & Policy (CIELAP) said today.

"The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is in a direct conflict of interest - it both regulates and promotes genetically modified foods," said CIELAP Executive Director Anne Mitchell.

"This is the same conflict of interest problem that contributed to the contaminated blood scandal that killed thousands of Canadians. Justice Krever pointed out that Health Canada was both the regulator and promoter of the blood system," she said.

"The regulatory regime is not adequate to protect Canadians' health and environment. The government would never have known that un-approved genetically modified foods were released into the food system if the company hadn't told it," said Mark Winfield, director of research for CIELAP.

"Regulation of genetically modified foods should be taken out of the hands of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, which is an institutional promoter of the products. Environment Canada, for example, would be a more appropriate regulator," Dr. Winfield said.

CIELAP issued a report on this issue -- Regulation of Agricultural Biotechnology in Canada -- in November.

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*The Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy has for been commenting on and monitoring policy and regulatory changes related to the environment for 30 years.*