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For immediate release

"Why don't Canadian consumers have the right to choose what they eat?" says environmental organization

Citizens' Guide to Biotechnology available - as European Parliament votes for the world's strictest legislation on labelling of GMO food and feed

CIELAP's, [Citizens' Guide to Biotechnology](#) is available today. The Guide is immediately relevant in the light of the European Parliament (EU) vote favouring for more rigorous labelling and "chain of custody" consideration for genetically engineered (GE) food and feed. Europe is poised to embrace the strictest regulations for labelling of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the world.

Anne Mitchell, CIELAP's Executive Director observed, "This vote will allow EU consumers and farmers to choose what to eat and use. CIELAP believes Canadian consumers should have the same choice." She went on to say, "Biotechnology is the manipulation of biological processes for industrial or other purposes. Clearly technology with societal impacts of this range and scale must receive the broadest possible debate."

"CIELAP has actively participated in the debate of using biotechnology. We have watched the issue evolve and have been frustrated by the substantial barriers to citizen participation and discussion," said Ms. Mitchell.

The [Citizens' Guide to Biotechnology](#) contains a detailed Glossary, Bibliography and clear descriptions of the basic science. As well there are balanced discussions of the ethical dilemmas, environmental concerns posed by Biotechnology. There is also a special section, which outlines how citizens can engage in the on-going social and scientific debate.

"Easing access to the debate about Biotechnology is a crucial undertaking for all citizens, since the impacts have the potential to affect everyone on the planet," concluded Ms. Mitchell.

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Ms. Mitchell is an informed commentator and served on the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister of Industry Canada

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.