



Health Action Network Society

Dear Store Managers, Distributors and Processors,

June 18, 2014

This letter is written on behalf of our members and thousands of other Canadians who are very concerned about the possibility of genetically modified (GM, also called genetically engineered) apples being sold in their local stores. **Sixty-nine percent of Canadians already say they do not want this GM apple.** (2012 Poll, commissioned by the BC Fruit Growers Association)

As you may know, this year a BC Company could receive government approval to sell an apple that is genetically modified not to brown after being cut. Though the company says that the apples will be labeled with the company logo, the GM apple will no doubt cause confusion for your customers.

If the GM apples are allowed on your shelves, then in order to avoid this product, your customers may stop buying apples in your store and may choose another store for their fresh produce.

We are asking all the grocery stores in British Columbia to commit to a position of not allowing these GM apples into their store. We are asking you to commit to keeping fresh GM apples out of your produce section.

We will be very excited to add the name of your store to the list we are compiling. We will update this list on our website as we receive signed letters, plus publish in our nationwide Health Action magazine. We will also be sending updated lists in media releases to more than 200 media outlets. The publication of this list will provide consumers with the locations of the stores where they can safely go to choose any apple with confidence and without concern that it is genetically engineered.

Please see the background document for more information on the Arctic (GM) apple and the controversy over its potential introduction.

Our members and over two-thirds of Canadians really appreciate your support on this issue. Please contact us if you would like more information, or to discuss this issue.

Thank you for your response,

Sincerely,

Randy Gomm
President: Health Action Network Society

Michael Volker
Director of Operations: Health Action Network Society