

Dear Ms. Leson:

Thank you for your email correspondence of September 14, 2021 regarding your concerns with science-based regulation of pesticides and genetically modified (GM) foods.

The health and safety of the environment and Canadians are important priorities for the Government of Canada. Hence, an integrated regulatory approach is taken through numerous laws that govern new and existing substances, including those in pesticides and GM foods. Environment and Climate Change Canada's mandate is to ensure a clean, safe and sustainable environment. Environment and Climate Change Canada collaborates with other Departments and Agencies to help ensure that substances, including pesticides and GM foods, are assessed appropriately under federal laws using best available science. For instance, the Department leads in assessing new substances prior to their introduction into the Canadian environment, applying regulations under the authorities of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA). The goal of these assessments is to ensure that there will be no risks to the environment resulting from the use of new substances, such as GM foods. In addition, under CEPA, partner Departments and Agencies such as Health Canada are authorized to utilize specific Acts, for example, the Pest Control Products Act or the Seeds Act to evaluate the risk to the environment and human health for the uses regulated under those Acts.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Sincerely,  
Jacqueline Gonçalves  
Director General, Science and Risk Assessment