

**PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS demanding  
respect for the right of small-scale family farmers to preserve, exchange and use seeds**

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WE, the undersigned, residents of Canada, wish to bring to the attention of the House of Commons what follows:

THAT, multinational seed companies are gradually replacing the immense diversity of farmer seeds by industrial varieties, are obtaining an increasing number of patents on different seeds, and are threatening the ability of small family farmers to produce the food required to feed their families and their communities.

THAT, because of the ratification by a number of countries of the latest version of the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, known as UPOV'91, these ancestral rights, which consisted of preserving, using and exchanging farmer seeds, have become in some cases illegal acts, which are punishable by law.

THAT, without small family farmers and peasants who perform the labour-intensive task of preserving seeds, biodiversity and the future of food is threatened.

THEREFORE, your petitioners ask that the Government of Canada and the House of Commons commit to:

- Adopt international aid policies that support small family farmers, especially women, and recognize their vital role in the struggle against hunger and poverty.
- Ensure that Canadian policies and programs are developed in consultation with small family farmers, and that they protect the rights of small family farmers in the Global South to preserve, use and freely exchange seeds.

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When you have 25 or more signatures, please mail or bring the petition to your Member of Parliament and ask them to present it to the House of Commons. You can find your MP and their contact information at [www.parl.gc.ca](http://www.parl.gc.ca). Please let us know what action you have taken by filling out the form at [www.devp.org/mp](http://www.devp.org/mp).

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