



# Ag-West Bio

## Healthy Foods & Ingredients: Surveying the Canadian Consumer



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



# Administering the survey ...

- Follow-on survey from December 2012 survey
  - Select number of new questions
- Conducted by Ipsos Reid in March 2015
- On-line survey
- 2201 Canadians surveyed - representative of population

	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan /Manitoba	Ontario	Quebec	Atlantic	Total Canada
Number of Interviews	N=296	N=234	N=142	N=844	N=528	N=157	2,201

- Full survey information:
  - Total Canadian percentages
  - By province
  - By age category

# Survey Explored Canadians' Perceptions

Specifically the research was designed to develop a deeper understanding of:

- Perceptions of food and dietary health;
- Consumption of healthy foods, ingredients and natural health products;
- Preference of product attributes, claims, ingredients & other factors in the food purchase decision;
- Current household health concerns
- Specific foods & ingredients sought for added health benefits;
- Retail locations for the purchase of healthy food, ingredients and natural healthy products;
- Sources of information for healthy food, ingredients and natural healthy products; and
- Explore trends in the market

# Canadians' Connection Between Food and Health

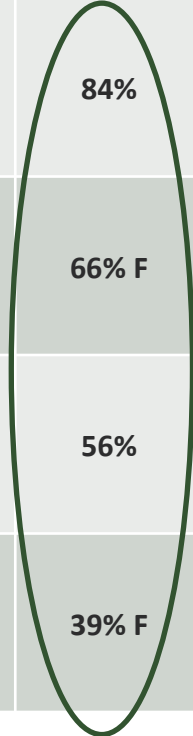


# Canadians are eating for wellness

- 85% of Canadians connect the food they are eating with health
- More Canadians have made changes to diet for general health and well-being rather than specific health benefit:
  - General health and well-being = 65%
  - Specific health concerns = 39%



	% Agree, Rated 4 or 5						
	Total (n=2,201)	British Columbia (n=296) (B)	Alberta (n=234) (C)	Saskatchewa n/Manitoba (n=142) (D)	Ontario (n=844) (E)	Quebec (n=528) (F)	Atlantic (n=157) (G)
I believe the foods and beverages I consume affect my health	85%	87% F	84%	83%	87% F	80%	87%
I have made changes to my diet for general overall health and well-being	65%	69% F	66% F	64%	67% F	56%	69% F
I seek out foods with fewer, simpler ingredients	59%	63% DF	56%	52%	62% DF	54%	63%
I have made changes to my diet because of a specific health concern	39%	44% F	39% F	38% F	43% F	26%	49% F

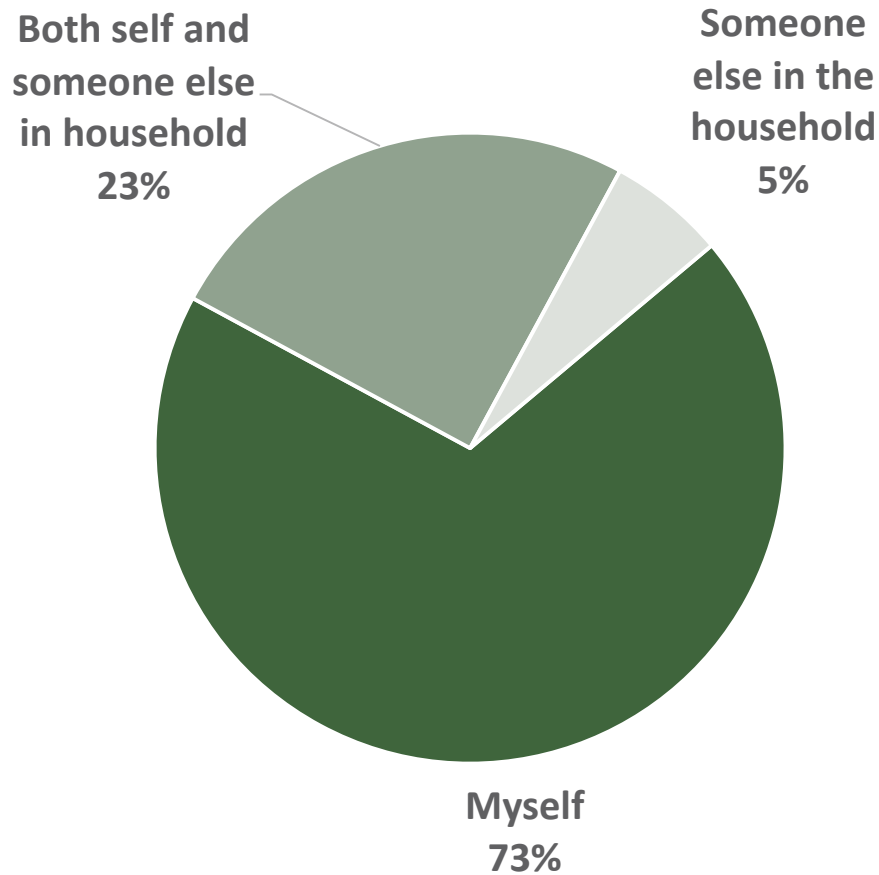


BCDEFG: Significantly higher than sub-group represented by that letter.

Base: All respondents (n=2,201)

**QA1. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree, please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements:...**

# *Change in diet is personal*



*Have you made changes to your diet because of a specific health concern related to you or someone else in your household? (850 respondents)*

# Canadians' lifestyles are out of sync with health and well-being

## Top health issues:

- **63%** Weight loss/management
- **58%** Bone/joint health
- **57%** Stress
- **56%** Sleep





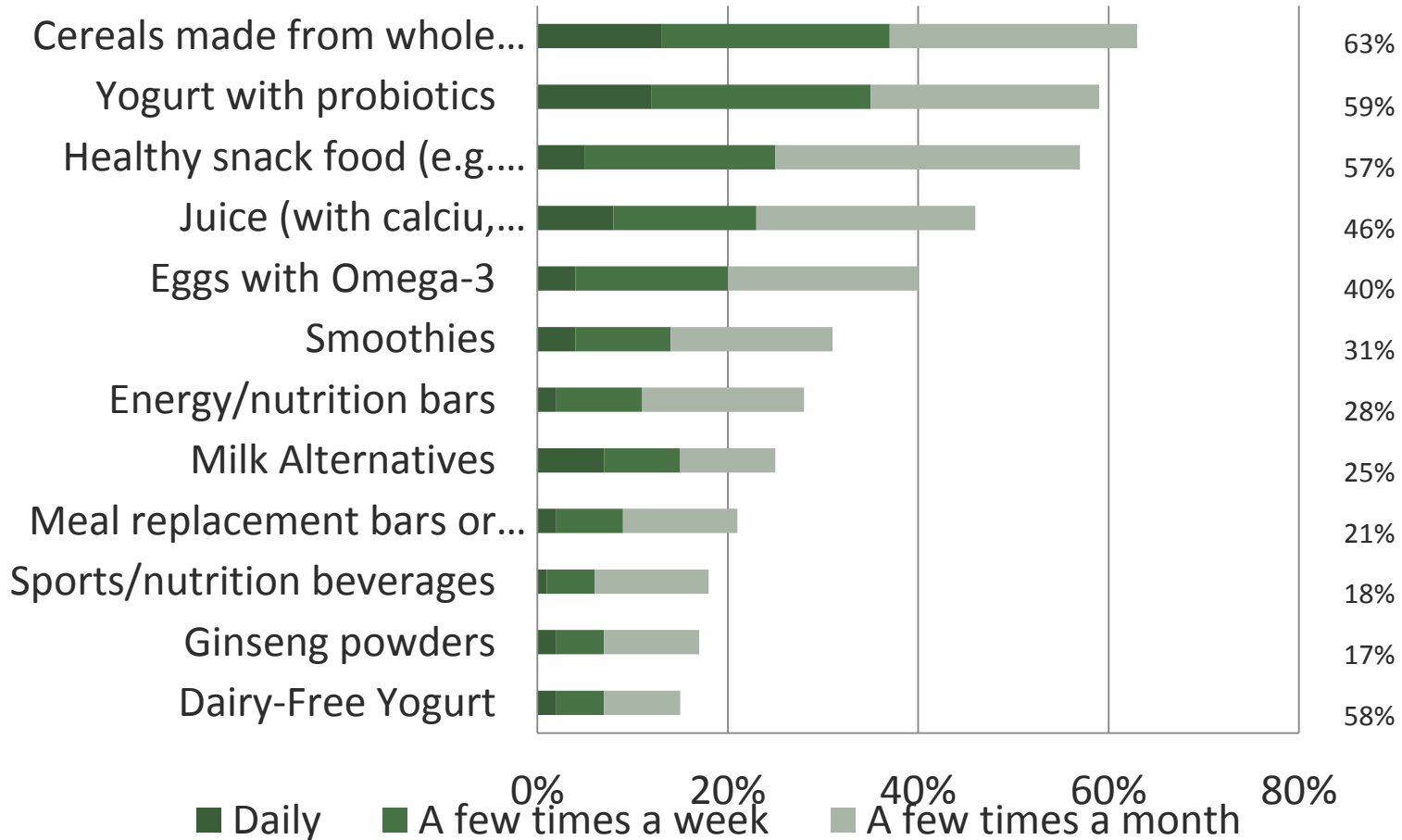
# What Do Canadians Want in their Food?



# Snacking gains strength for Canadians

Regular Users

## Healthy Food and Ingredients



Base: All respondents (n=2,201)

QC2. Which of the following best describes how often you consume each of the following products?

# Specific Foods/Ingredients Sought for Added Health Benefits – Region

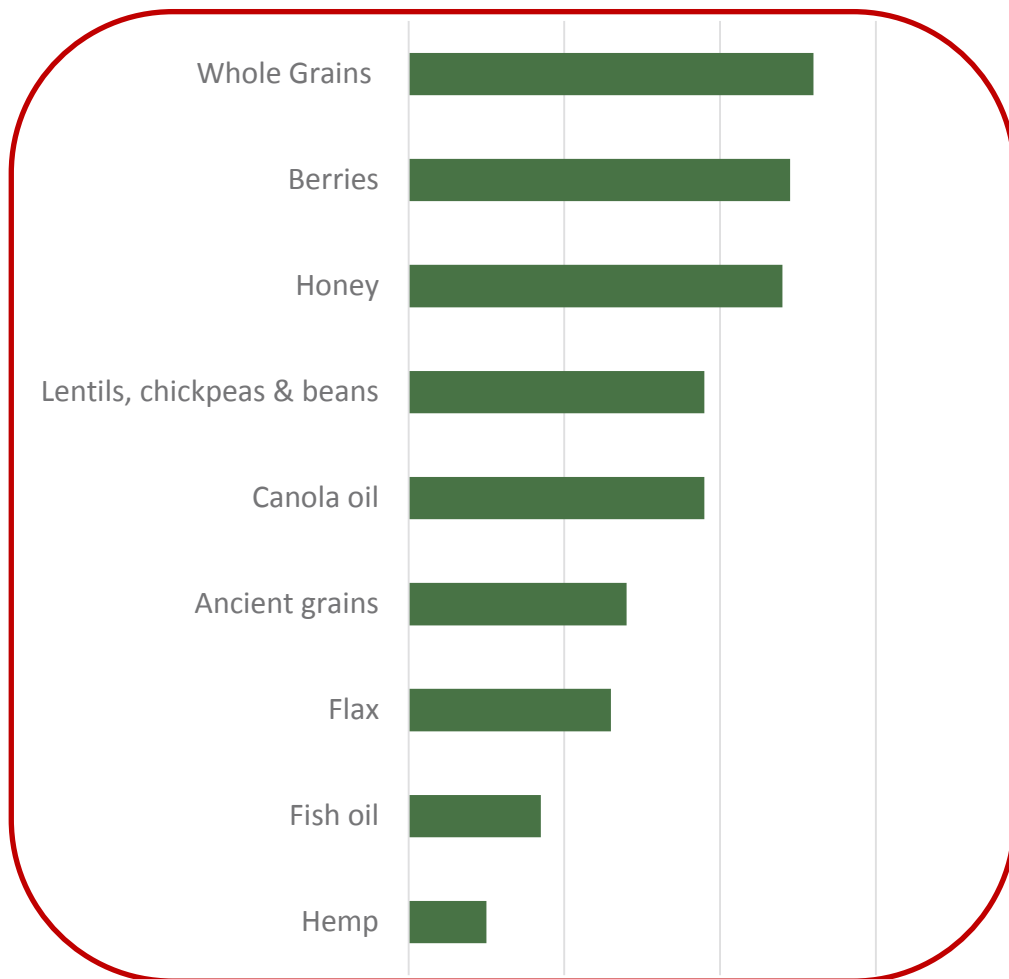
	% Yes						
	Total (n=2,201)	British Columbia (n=296) (B)	Alberta (n=234) (C)	Saskatchewa n/Manitoba (n=142) (D)	Ontario (n=844) (E)	Quebec (n=528) (F)	Atlantic (n=157) (G)
Whole grains	52%	59% EF	52%	50%	50%	50%	57%
Berries (Saskatoon berries, blueberries)	49%	55% F	54% F	51%	50% F	43%	46%
Honey	48%	46%	49%	42%	47%	54% BDEG	44%
Lentils, chickpeas and beans	38%	38% CDG	24%	26%	42% CDG	46% BCDG	28%
Canola Oil	38%	33%	43% BE	45% BE	32%	46% BE	37%
Ancient grains such as buckwheat, rye and quinoa	28%	33% FG	27%	26%	30% G	25%	19%
Flax (seed, oil)	26%	28%	27%	24%	27%	23%	27%
Fish oil	17%	17%	20% F	12%	19% DF	13%	21% F
Hemp (seed, oil, hemp hearts, milk, protein powder)	10%	17% EFG	12% F	10%	11% F	7%	7%
Ginseng	8%	10% DG	8% D	2%	8% D	8% D	4%
I don't use of the above	16%	13%	14%	23% BCF	17%	14%	18%

BCDEFG: Significantly higher than sub-group represented by that letter.

Base: All respondents (n=2,001)

**QC3. Do you regularly use any of the following foods or ingredients specifically because of their added health benefits?**

# Canadians are purchasing specific foods or ingredients because of health benefits provided



Regular usage increases with age



**QC3. Do you regularly use any of the following foods or ingredients specifically because of their added health benefits?**

# *Understanding Canadians' food prep knowledge versus purchase habits*

	Purchased 3 or more times in last year	At Least some knowledge about use in meals
Quinoa	20%	54%
Dry beans	21%	62%
Chick peas	32%	67%
Lentils	23%	61%
Flax	15%	50%
Barley	14%	60%
Dry Peas	14%	56%
Raw shelled hemp seeds	6%	25%

# Increasing the knowledge of Canadians may increase its usage



# Many functional ingredients are still in demand in the market

## ● Influence of added functional ingredients on food choice:

- **82%** Fibre
- **77%** Vitamins and minerals
- **64%** Antioxidants
- **64%** Probiotics
- **62%** Omega 3



# Canadians are looking for health benefits from simpler and whole foods

- 59% of Canadians seeking out foods with fewer, simpler ingredients

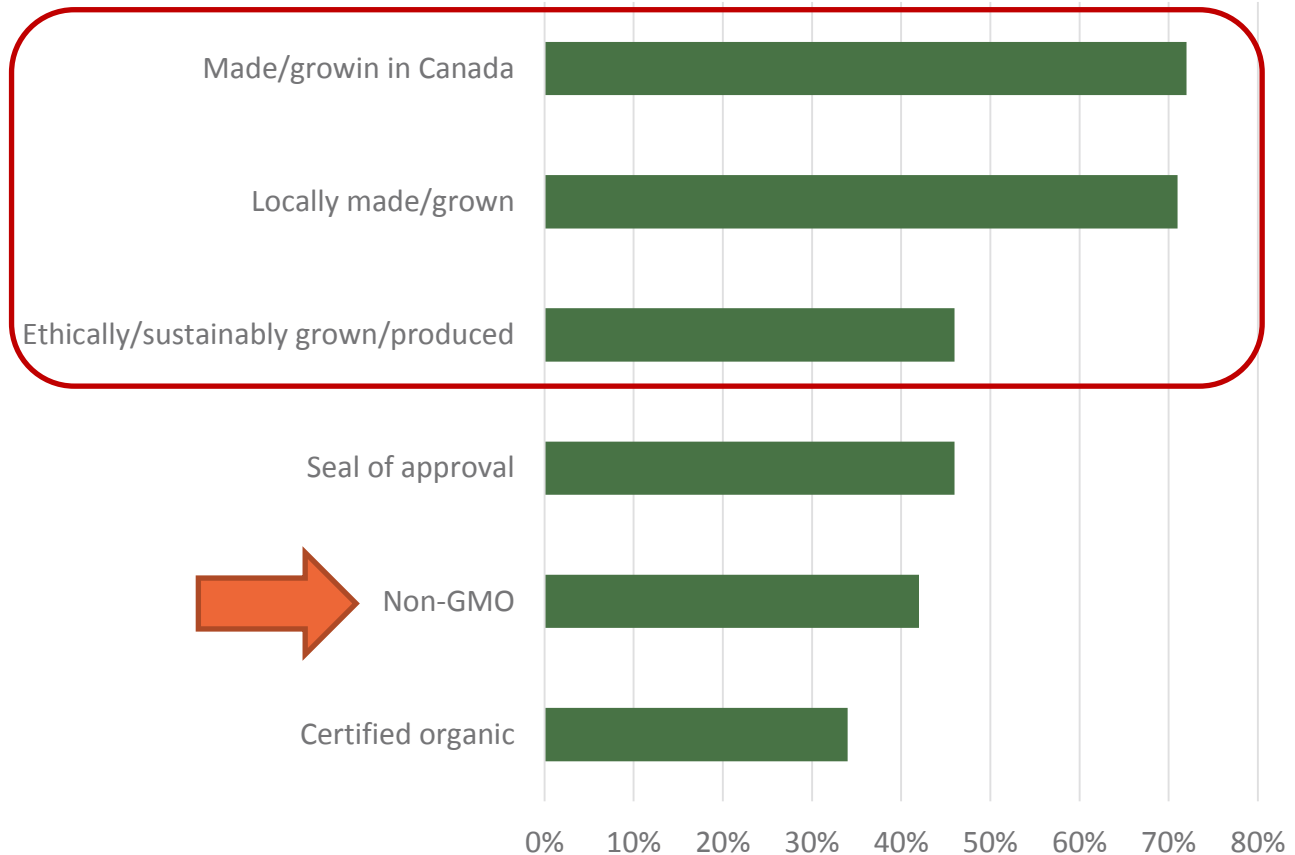




# Canadians are looking to connect with their food choices

Attributes or Claims that influence the food purchase decision

More important to Canadians as they age



QB6. How do the following product attributes or claims influence your decision to buy a food product?

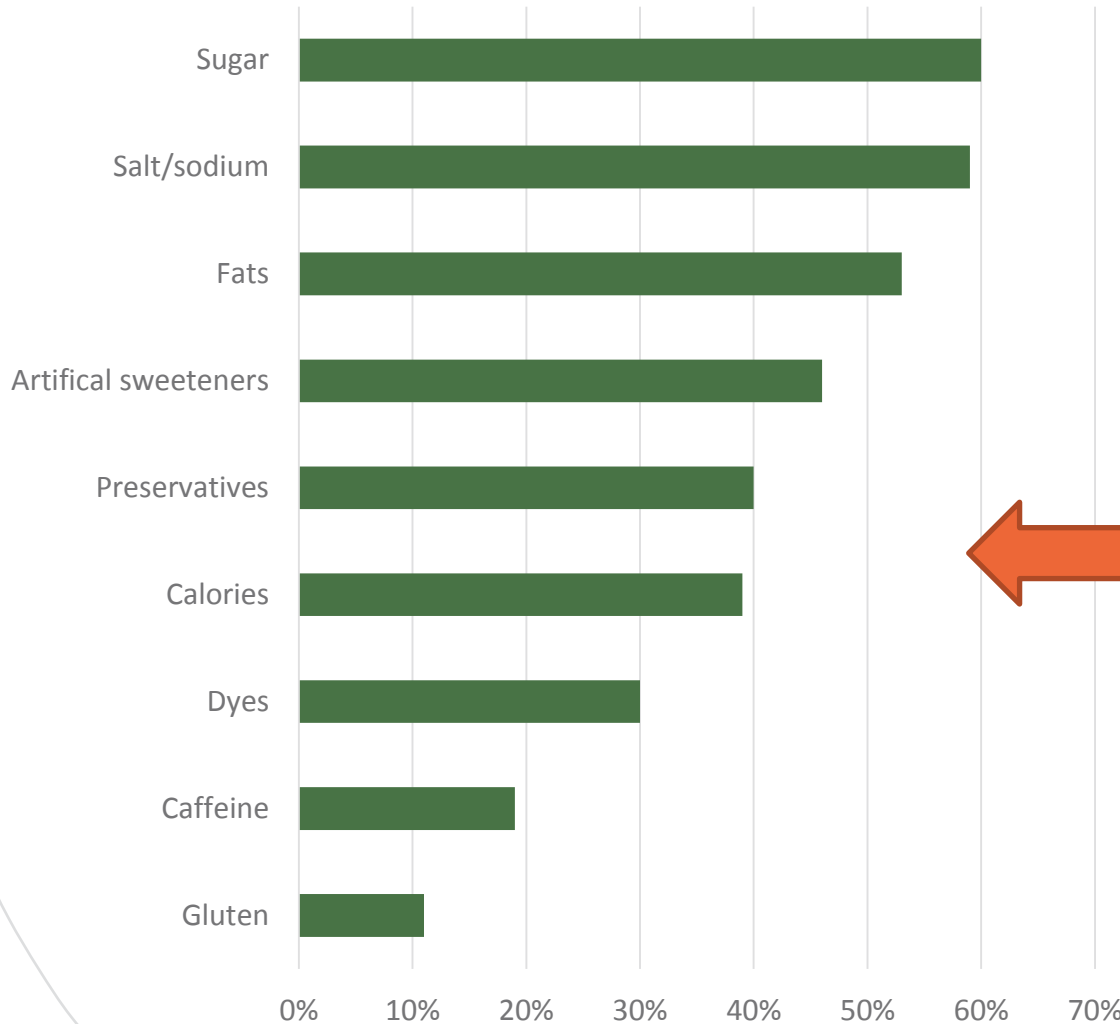
# *Canadians are influenced by local but they are also looking at...*

- Huge impact on food and beverage purchase decision
  - **98%** Taste
  - **98%** Freshness
  - **96%** Price



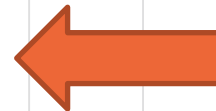
# What Canadians are omitting...

Attempting to limit in the diet



As Canadians age, they are more likely to reduce specific additives or ingredients in their diet

Weight loss/management most important health issue for 63% of Canadians, but only 39% are trying to limit calories.



# *More work needs to be done to build the trust of Canadians in food safety*

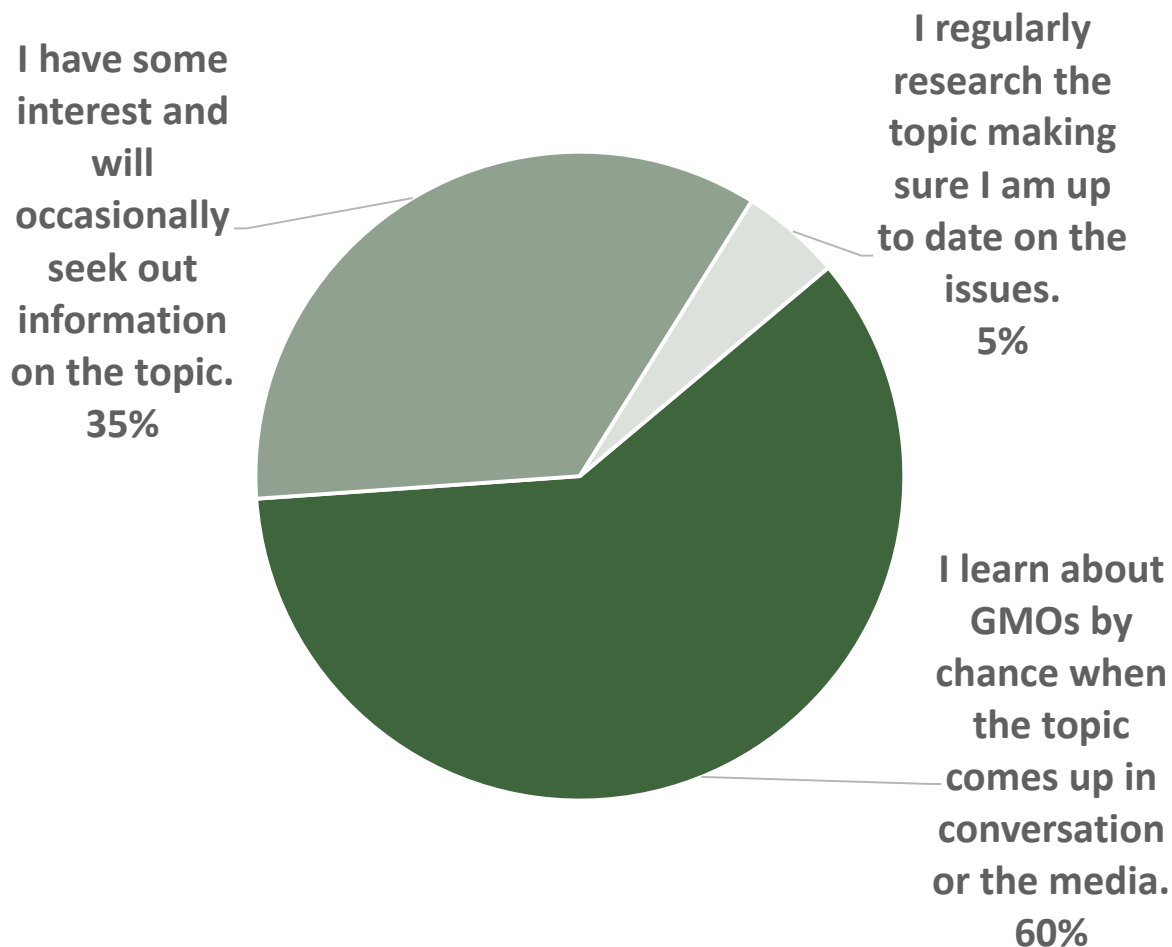


- 🌿 **65%** Confident in the safety of the Canadian food supply
- 🌿 **56%** Concerned about the safety of the foods and beverages they consume

# *GMO debate is likely being driven more by passion than knowledge*

Non-GMO foods are more nutritious than foods containing GMO	33% strongly or somewhat agree
Foods containing GMOs can be part of a healthy diet	30% strongly or somewhat agree
Non-GMO claim influences purchase decision	42% a lot or somewhat more likely to purchase

# Media coverage fueling interest in GMOs?



Base: All respondents (n=2,001)

QA4. Which of the following describes how you learn about GMOs or genetic engineering?

# *Make it easy for Canadians to connect with the food they eat*

Tell your story – be transparent

What's in the food?

Who made it?

What is the connection to Canada?

Why is it good for me?

**Goal → build trust**

*three farmers*



# Where are Canadians Shopping for Healthy Food?





# Canadian women still doing the majority of the grocery shopping...

- About a quarter of households share responsibility for grocery purchases
- More women than men still doing all or most of the household grocery shopping:
  - **71%** of all households have one person who does all or almost all of the grocery shopping
  - **58%** women – do all or almost all of grocery shopping
  - **42%** men – do all or almost all of grocery shopping



# *Grocery stores are the mainstay for Canadians purchasing healthy food, beverages and ingredients*

🍃 Top three places where Canadians regularly shop:

- **85%** At grocery stores
- **48%** At mass retailers (e.g. Costco, Walmart)
- **27%** At farmers' markets



# Where are Canadians Getting Their Information?



# Canadians access multiple sources to gain information on healthy eating

- Top four sources:
  - **47%** On-line/internet
  - **43%** Friends or family
  - **35%** Health professionals
  - **28%** Magazine or newspapers



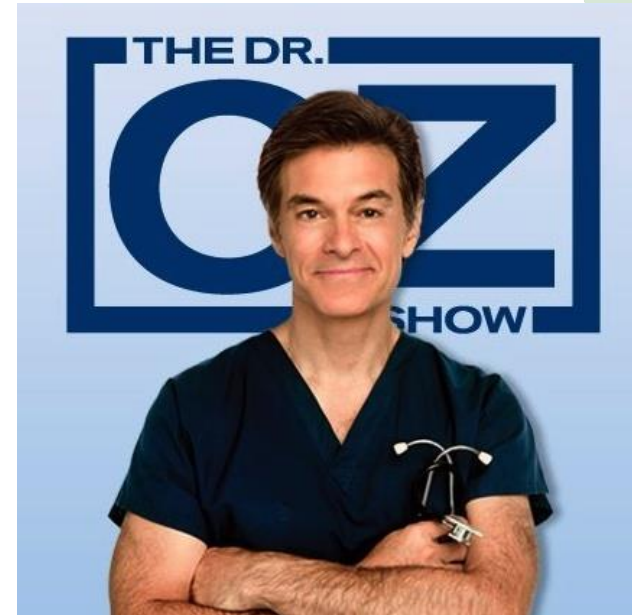
- Older Canadians (45+) more likely to seek information from:
  - Health professionals
  - Magazine or newspaper
  - Consumer wellness show



# Consumer Information Sources - Familiarity

As a source of information for food, Canadians very or somewhat familiar with:

- **30%** Dr. Oz
- **9%** Canadian Organic Trade Association
- **8%** The International Food Information Council
- **8%** Farm & Food Care
- **7%** Canadian Biotechnology Action Network



# Don't forget your consumers' biggest source of information

93% Read nutrition facts panel

90% Read ingredient list

**INGREDIENTS:** Almonds, pumpkin, organic coconut nectar, arrowroot powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, allspice, cloves, organic vanilla beans, baking soda, celtic sea salt.

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>			
Serving Size ½ cup (114g)			
Servings Per Container 4			
<b>Amount Per Serving</b>			
<b>Calories</b>	90	Calories from Fat 30	
<b>% Daily Value*</b>			
<b>Total Fat</b>	3g	<b>5%</b>	
Saturated Fat 0g		<b>0%</b>	
<b>Cholesterol</b>	0mg	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Sodium</b>	300mg	<b>13%</b>	
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b>	13g	<b>4%</b>	
Dietary Fiber 3g		<b>12%</b>	
Sugars 3g			
<b>Protein</b>	3g		
Vitamin A 80%		•	Vitamin C 60%
Calcium 4%		•	Iron 4%
*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your caloric needs:			
		Calories: 2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g
Calories per gram:			
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4			

# ***Canadians are connected ... however the connection has not yet resulted in significant on-line purchasing***



- 🌱 **47%** Search on-line for product information (top source)
- 🌱 **18%** Use their smart phones for product information when grocery shopping
- 🌱 **3%** Buy food on-line

# But retailers are getting on board

## save **on** foods



Click here to start shopping!



(Loblaws)

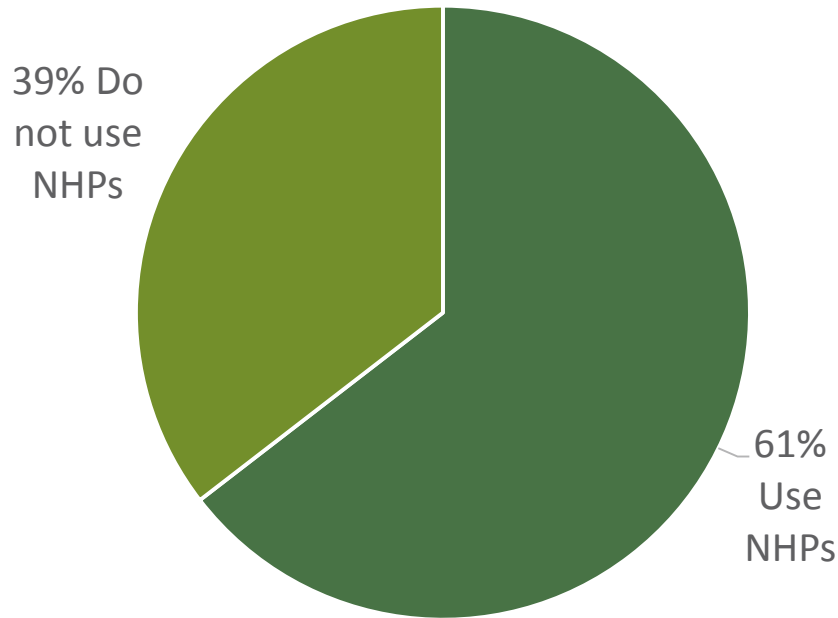


# Consumption of Natural Health Products



# *The majority of Canadians consume natural health products*

Usage of NHPs



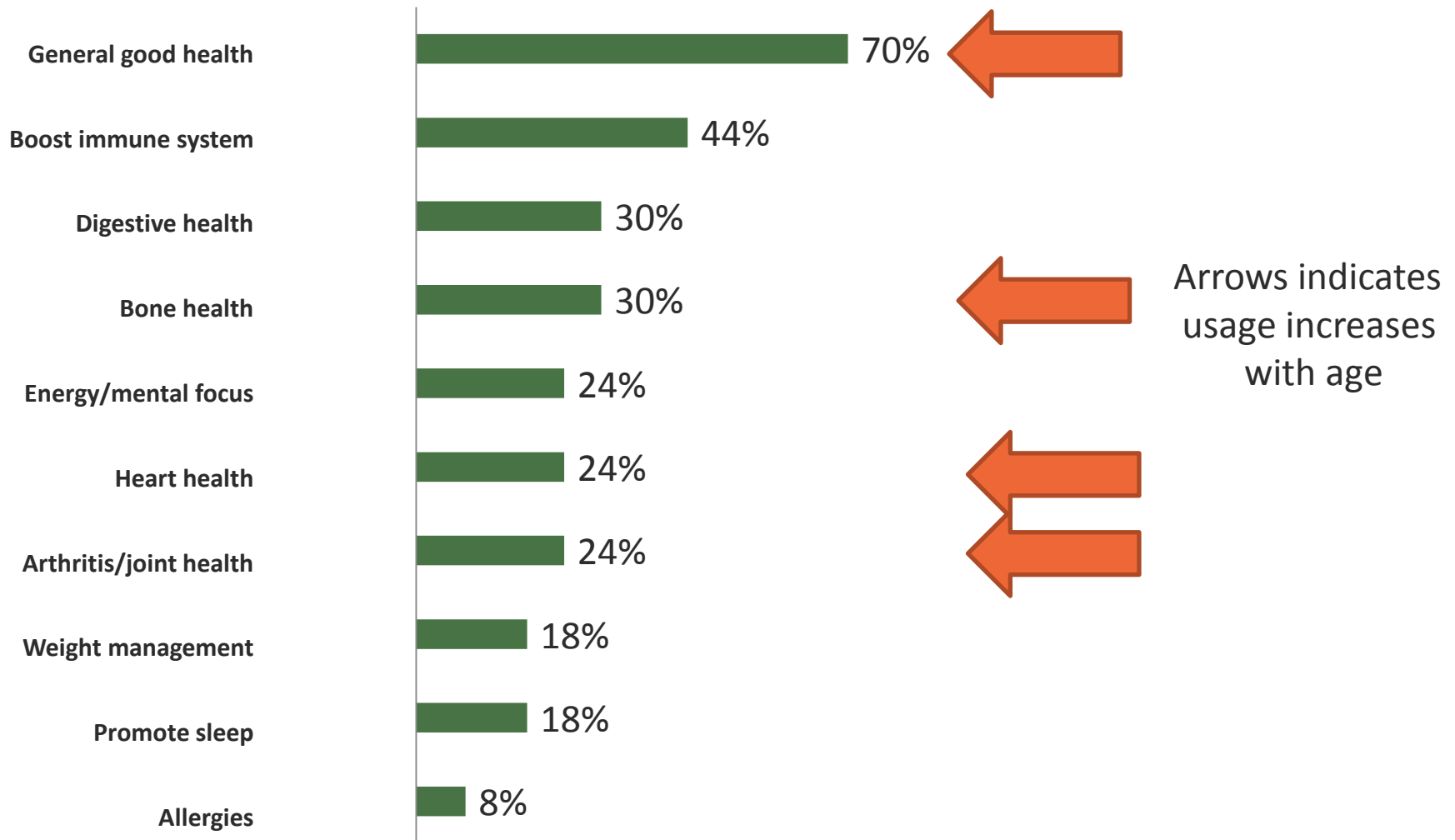
**22%** - Daily users

**14%** - Weekly users

**8%** - Monthly users

**16%** - Seasonal users

# Canadians are consuming natural health products for health and well being



Base: Among those who have used natural health products (n=1,213)

QF3. Why do you take vitamins, minerals or natural health products? Select all that apply.

# Types of Natural Health Products Used – Age

	% Ever Used				
	Total (n=1,351)	18 to 34 (n=389) (H)	35 to 44 (n=236) (I)	45 to 54 (n=270) (J)	55 to 65 (n=456) (K)
Vitamins/minerals	70%	62%	67%	73% H	75% HI
Calcium	44%	30%	35%	46% HI	58% HIJ
Omega 3/essential fatty acids - fish/marine sourced	38%	30%	30%	41% HI	47% HI
Probiotics	35%	31%	35%	42% H	36%
Cold medicines (i.e. cold-fx)	29%	25%	28%	29%	31%
Echinacea	24%	20%	23%	29% H	24%
Antioxidants	24%	20%	19%	26%	28% HI
Glucosamine	22%	9%	17% H	24% HI	36% HIJ
Omega 3 from plant sources	18%	16%	12%	23% HI	20% I

HIJK: Significantly higher than sub-group represented by that letter.

Note: Only total mentions of 3% and higher are shown

Base: Among those who have used natural health products (n=1,351)

**QF2. Which natural health products, sold in dosage form, have you ever used? Select all that apply.**

# Types of Natural Health Products Used – Age (cont.)

	% Ever Used				
	Total (n=1,351)	18 to 34 (n=389) (H)	35 to 44 (n=236) (I)	45 to 54 (n=270) (J)	55 to 65 (n=456) (K)
Essential oils	18%	16%	19%	18%	18%
Melatonin	17%	14%	17%	18%	18%
Ginseng	15%	12%	18% H	16%	17%
Protein powder - plant sources	13%	15% K	16% K	14% K	8%
Homeopathic medicines	12%	10%	12%	13%	13%
Protein powder - animal sources	8%	10% K	13% JK	6%	4%
Hemp Oil Capsules	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%
None of the above	5%	7% K	6% K	5%	3%

HIJK: Significantly higher than sub-group represented by that letter.

Note: Only total mentions of 3% and higher are shown

Base: Among those who have used natural health products (n=1,351)

*QF2. Which natural health products, sold in dosage form, have you ever used? Select all that apply.*

# Purchasing Natural Health Products



# *NHPs are considered mainstream but grocery stores share the market*

- Main retail outlets where Canadians shop for NHPs:
  - **50%** - Pharmacy/drug stores
  - **49%** - Grocery stores
  - **43%** - Mass retailers (e.g. Walmart, Costco)
  - **29%** - Health food stores



# Purchasing Natural Health Products

- Canadians in Alberta (61%) and Saskatchewan-Manitoba (56%) rely on grocery stores for most of their natural health shopping, whereas those in Quebec (63%) buy mostly from pharmacies and drug stores.
- Regardless of age, small number of Canadians are utilizing online retailers as a resource for their natural health purchases (9%).





# Key Messages



# Key Messages of the Survey

- Canadians are looking for food that will help them achieve a healthy lifestyle
- Most Canadians believe the food and beverages they consume impact their health and two-thirds have made a change to their diet for general health and well-being purposes.
- Consumers facing challenges with major lifestyle health issues: weight loss/management, stress and sleep
- Among Canadians who use natural health products; vitamins/minerals followed by calcium, omega 3/essential fatty acids and probiotics are the products most commonly used. They are primarily used for general health and to boost the immune system.
- Canadians identified items they are limiting; sugar, sodium and fats are the most common items people want to avoid. A large number of consumers also limit artificial sweeteners (46%), preservatives (40%) and calories (39%).

# Key Messages of the Survey (continued)

- Product claims that have the most influence on Canadians are: made/grown in Canada and locally made/grown while claims of certified organic and non-GMO currently have less influence on purchase decisions.
  - About a third of Canadians feel certified organic foods are healthier and a third think non-GMO foods are more nutritious than foods containing GMOs.
- Change in diet is personal
  - 77% of Canadian households reported having 3 or more health concerns for themselves or others in their household
  - 65% have made changes for overall health & wellbeing
  - Of those who have made a change to diet due to specific health concerns:
    - 73% have made change to diet because of their own health issues
    - 23% have made change to diet because of their own and someone else's health issue in the household

**Questions?**



For more information contact:  
Bev Stangeland  
Email: [bev.stangeland@agwest.sk.ca](mailto:bev.stangeland@agwest.sk.ca)  
Website: <http://www.agwest.sk.ca>