As per Health Canada, the decision about a product's status is not a safety assessment of the product. It is a review of the product descriptions/rationales provided by the developer to support the non-novel status of their product. The department will conclude whether or not these descriptions/rationales correctly support that the product is not novel.

It's unlikely that regulators and a developer would differ in their determination of a product's novelty status, based on the Health Canada Guidance on the Novelty Interpretation of Products of Plant Breeding. However, the department reserves the right to request additional information if it believes that such foods meet the "novel food" definition. If the department determines the product meets this definition, a pre-market safety assessment would be required for the sale of that product in Canada. This applies to all foods intended for sale in Canada, not only to foods made from gene-edited plants.