



# Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

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## **Major Conference on NAFTA: Globalization's Blueprint**

### **Civil Society leaders from Mexico, Canada and the U.S. to attend**

MINNEAPOLIS — In two weeks, Mexican, Canadian and American civil society, academic and government representatives will gather in Minneapolis to evaluate the controversial North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and make proposals for a new fair trade system.

The meeting will look at NAFTA's impact on hot button issues such as: immigration, job outsourcing, globalization, environmental and energy policy, and food and farming. The final provisions of NAFTA go into effect on January 1, 2008

“Recent polls have consistently shown that Americans don't feel that free trade agreements have benefitted them and trade has already become an issue in the U.S. Presidential race,” said Jim Harkness, President of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. “NAFTA is the blueprint for free trade, and it's critical that we understand its impact, where it has failed, and what needs to be changed.”

“Lessons from NAFTA: Building a New Fair Trade Agenda,” will be held October 22 and 23rd at the Minneapolis Convention Center, (details at: [iatp.org](http://iatp.org)). The conference features a wide-ranging collection of speakers including:

- John Nichols – political columnist for *The Nation* (keynote).
- Maude Barlow – author and President of the Council on Canadians
- Mark Ritchie – Minnesota Secretary of State and former President of IATP
- Peter Julian – Member of Parliament - Canada
- Dan Magraw – Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Victor Suarez – former Mexico legislator and director of Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo (ANEC)
- Jose Antonio Almazan - Federal Deputy (PRD), Mexican Parliament
- Martha Ojeda – Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras (CJM)
- David Morris, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
- David Ostendorf - Center for New Community
- David Bacon – author of *Children of NAFTA*

The agenda and a full list of speakers can be found at: [www.iatp.org](http://www.iatp.org)

*The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy works globally to promote resilient family farms, healthy communities and ecosystems through research and education, science and technology, and advocacy. <http://www.iatp.org>*