



INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2003

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North Minneapolis Meeting Will Target Children's Health

Minneapolis - Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, the Minneapolis Urban League, and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy announce a pre-Thanksgiving dinner and workshop. This event is scheduled for **November 6, 5:30 – 8:00 pm** at the **Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Av. North, Minneapolis**. Entitled "*Protecting Your Children from Environmental Dangers in Your Very Own Home*," the workshop will feature practical information on reducing children's exposures to common toxic chemicals. Activities for children ages 6-12 will also be offered. Participants will receive informational materials and free pest prevention kits.

This free event is part of the Urban League's *Minnesota Pipeline* series and includes a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Topics include: lead exposure, toxic cleaning products, pesticides and food contaminants. Featured speakers are: Melisa Illies & Megan Ellingson, City of Minneapolis; Annie Young & Shawna Hedlund, Women's Cancer Resource Center; Collie Graddick, MN Dept of Agriculture; and Kathleen Schuler, Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy.

"A lot of parents don't realize that there are some simple things they can do to protect their children. For example, eating fish which are lower in contaminants, using non-toxic cleaning products and avoiding use of pesticides," says Kathleen Schuler, Environmental Health Scientist with IATP. "This workshop offers some practical tips for protecting kids from common household toxins."

Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota (EJAM), spearheaded by Minnesota State Rep. Keith Ellison about a year ago, is a coalition of community members and organizations dedicated to addressing issues of environmental justice and health disparities in Minnesota. Some of the issues that disproportionately affect North Minneapolis residents and communities of color in general include, high rates of asthma and lead poisoning and higher exposure to air pollution and polluting industries. In September 2003 EJAM organized about 150 community members to attend and present their views at a Public Hearing by the Public Utilities Commission on conversion of the Riverside Coal Plant to less polluting gas.

Other sponsors of this event include: The Women's Cancer Resource Center, The Council on Black Minnesotans, Insight News and Preventing Harm Minnesota, a coalition of groups working to protect children from environmental toxins. For more details on this event or more information about Preventing Harm, go to www.preventingharmminnesota.org.

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy promotes resilient family farms, rural communities and ecosystems around the world through research and education, science and technology, and advocacy.

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