

Dr. David Montgomery is author of "Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations," which examines the natural and cultural history of soil from ancient civilizations to modern times, and argues that we have been gradually using up the earth's soil. Montgomery was born in Stanford California, and earned his PhD in geomorphology at UBC Berkeley. He currently teaches at the University of Washington where he studies the evolution of topography and how geological processes shape landscapes and influence ecological systems.

Ellen Gabriel is former president of the Quebec Native Women's Association. She grew up in Kanehsata:ke, where her heroes were her grandmother, mother, and aunts who joined the women's movement to fight for equality rights for Native women. Her interest in justice and human rights was spurred by the various social revolutions that took place in the 1960s. She was chosen by her community to be a spokesperson for them during the Oka Crisis in 1990. Since then she has spoken around the world about the rights violations that took place there. Gabriel believes that education is one of the keys to for Aboriginal peoples to overcome oppression and the effects of colonization, while still maintaining other language cultures and traditions.

Devlin Kuyek is a researcher and activist at GRAIN, which is a small international non-profit organization that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and bio-diversity based food systems. Kuyek has worked with NGOs and peasant organizations in Malaysia and the Philippines. He is GRAIN's most active researcher, focussing on monitoring and analyzing global agribusiness, including the global land rush. Devlin is based in Montreal.

Dr. Susan Machum is a Canada Research Chair in Rural Social Justice, at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB. Her research investigates how rural communities are responding to the opportunities and challenges farmers face as they adapt to meet local needs rather than export markets. Machum is examining the impacts current policies are having on farm household incomes and livelihoods. She is also analyzing how local food movement initiatives are transforming production practices and contributing to sustainability. In addition, she is detailing how rural communities are revitalizing their livelihoods, and creating new opportunities for themselves amid global social and economic change.

We have block-booked rooms at the
Four Points Sheraton in London, Ontario.

Book before
NOVEMBER 1, 2011.

*Please indicate that you are with the
NFU Convention when making reservations.*



**42nd Annual
Convention**

*For the Love
of the Land*

London, Ontario

*Four Points by Sheraton
1150 Wellington Rd. South*

November 24 to 26, 2011

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Phone:

519-681-0600

Email:

laurabroer@fourpointslondon.com

A personalized website for the NFU Convention has also been created. You can book, modify or cancel a reservation. Type the following link (with no spaces) into your web browser:

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1103246854&key=699D6>

Reservations:

Phone: 519-681-0600

Email: laurabroer@fourpointslondon.com

Room Rates:

\$110 Standard Double
\$125 Executive King Suites

CONVENTION RATES

NFU Members:

\$175 Registration fee for delegates & visitors
[includes spouse and children]

\$ 85 Per day for those not planning on
attending the entire convention

FREE Youth delegates and youth visitors
[ages 14—25]

Non-Members:

\$175 Registration fee
[includes spouse & children]

\$ 85 Per day for those not planning on
attending the entire convention

\$ 15 Per day for students



national farmers union

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For the Love of the Land

For the Love of the Land was chosen as the convention theme this year in order to celebrate and explore the central role that the land plays in the lives of farmers, peasants, indigenous peoples, and society more generally.

Convention offers us a chance to celebrate together all that the land has brought us over the past year. It will also offer us the opportunity to explore land issues such as land grabbing and soil degradation, in an attempt to uncover their implications for the future of our food systems.

Our hope is that we all gain a renewed appreciation for our relationship with the land, and how it shapes our social, economic, and cultural well being.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, November 23:

6—10 PM **Registration & Social**

7:00 PM **Book Launch:**
Food Sovereignty in Canada
(see below)

Thursday, November 24:

8:00 AM **Registration**

10:00 AM **CALL TO ORDER**

10:10 AM **OPENING ADDRESS:**
NFU President Terry Boehm

10:30 AM **PANEL:**
Food Safety Panel

3:00 PM **Presentation of Financial Report**

5:00 PM **International Program
Committee Meeting**

7:00 PM **PUBLIC MEETING:**
Dr. David Montgomery, author of
Dirt: The Erosion of Civilizations

Friday, November 25:

9:00 AM **PANEL:**
Land Grabbing in Canada

1:30 PM **ADDRESS:**
Indigenous Perspective on Land Issues
— Ellen Gabriel

6:30 PM **Banquet and Dance**

Saturday, November 26:

9:00 AM **REPORTS:**
Women's Caucus, Youth Caucus,
International Program Committee

10:45 AM **PANEL:**
Land Grabbing in Developing Countries

2:30 PM **WRAP-UP ADDRESS/PANEL:**

3:45 PM **Installation of Officers**

4:00 PM **CLOSING ADDRESS:**
National President

4:15 PM **CONVENTION ADJOURNMENT**

Food Sovereignty in Canada Book Launch

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 PM

Employing an interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral approach, ***Food Sovereignty in Canada*** explores how communities all over the country are actively engaged in implementing alternative agricultural and food models within the framework of food sovereignty – taking control over food-producing resources, markets, and agricultural policy. This framework offers Canadian citizens, researchers and policymakers the opportunity to build alternative agricultural and food models that are less environmentally damaging and that keep farmers on the land while ensuring that those living in cities have access to healthy and safe food.

Achieving food sovereignty requires conceptual and practical changes, reshaping menus, farming, communities, relationships, values and policy, but, as the authors clearly demonstrate, the urgent work of building food sovereignty in Canada is well under way.