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**national farmers union**  
*In Union Is Strength*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NFU REPRESENTATIVES HEAVILY INVOLVED IN WTO ACTIONS**

National Farmers Union (NFU) representatives at the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in Hong Kong are heavily involved in actions both inside and outside the main conference hall.

In addition to addressing public forums on such issues as supply-management and Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs), NFU President Stewart Wells and NFU Women's President Colleen Ross take part in twice-daily briefing sessions for Canadian delegates. They're also participating in actions staged by La Via Campesina, a global coalition of family farm organizations.

The NFU is one of the Via Campesina organizations with official accreditation under non-governmental organization (NGO) status, which gains them access to the WTO site, the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. Meanwhile, thousands of farmers from around the globe who are not able to be accredited are holding creative protests from Victoria Park in downtown Hong Kong.

On December 16, Ross was one of several farmers who participated in an "inside" action, which took the form of a skit entitled "Pascal Lamy and the Sorcerer's Box". Members of Via Campesina, representing several countries, took part in the skit, which portrayed WTO Director General Pascal Lamy as a magician. In the skit, the actor playing Lamy waved a magic wand to create the illusion that free trade would benefit farmers. The actor representing Lamy, however, soon came under the "spell" of giant transnational corporations. This was designed to illustrate the fact that large corporations which dominate the global marketplace dictate the mandate of the WTO.

George Naylor, President of the US-based National Family Farm Coalition, a Via Campesina member organization, told reporters after the skit that while a new trade deal is promoted as a vehicle for development, it will actually stifle food sovereignty in less developed countries. The real objective, he added, is to force open new markets in the global south for large corporations.

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