

National Office  
2717 Wentz Ave.  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
S7K 4B6  
Tel (306) 652-9465  
Fax (306) 664-6226  
E-Mail: nfu@nfu.ca



**national farmers union**

***In Union Is Strength***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AUGUST 17, 2007**

**SPP SUMMIT UNDERMINES FOOD SOVEREIGNTY, SAYS NFU**

The Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) summit slated for Montebello, Quebec early next week is aimed at undermining food sovereignty in Canada, says Colleen Ross, Women's President of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

The SPP was officially launched by the leaders of the US, Canada and Mexico in March, 2005. Even though it deals with such important issues as food, water, trade, energy, and security, the public has been effectively shut out of the process. The key advisory body in the SPP is the North American Competitiveness Council, composed of 30 Chief Executive Officers from the largest corporations in Canada, the US and Mexico. The SPP aims to accelerate the corporate goal of continental economic integration by linking it to US government security demands.

A two-day summit on the SPP is scheduled for August 20 and 21 between Prime Minister Harper, US President Bush, and Mexican President Calderon. A National Day of Protest is being organized across Canada on August 20 to focus on the issue.

“Big business has been moving quickly to establish a continental resource pact, a North American security perimeter, and common agricultural and other health, safety and environmental policies,” noted Ross. “Even our elected MPs have been out of the loop with regard to these discussions.” She noted the SPP is already having an impact. Earlier this year, an SPP priority aimed at harmonizing rules on pesticide residues resulted in Canada allowing higher levels of pesticides in the food we eat. In addition, the five-fold increase in tar sands production will make it impossible for Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Ross said the SPP will curtail Canada's ability to implement policies aimed at making food sovereignty a reality. “The current food system, which is heavily dependent on massive energy inputs, is aimed at boosting exports. Canadian farmers' incomes haven't gone up as a result of increased exports, and that policy has also hurt producers in other countries. It's time to re-examine the causes of hunger and poverty, and implement policies that make sense, like food sovereignty – the ability of a nation to determine its own policies with regard to food and farming.”

- 30 -

Contact: Colleen Ross, NFU Women's President (613) 652-1552  
Terry Pugh, NFU Executive-Secretary (306) 652-9465