

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Anne McGrath has been consistently identified as one of the 100 most influential people in government and politics in Ottawa. Knowledgeable about federal politics, trade unions, civil society and non-profit organizations and the NDP, Anne was chief of staff to NDP leaders Jack Layton, Nycole Turmel, and Thomas Mulcair. She led a staff team of more than 700, provided critical strategic advice, and was part of the core team when the NDP gained official opposition status in 2011.

Jim Stanford is an Economist with the former Canadian Auto Workers, which along with Commercial, Energy and Paperworkers, formed Unifor, the largest, most diverse union in Canada. Jim is the author of *Paper Boom* and co-editor of *Challenging the Market: The Struggle to Regulate Work and Income*. He is also a columnist for *The Globe & Mail*.

Dave Oswald Mitchell is a writer, editor, researcher and co-editor of *Beautiful Trouble: A Toolbox for Revolution*. He edited the Canadian activist publication *Briarpatch Magazine* from 2005 to 2010, and his writing has been published in *Rabble*, *Reality Sandwich*, *Rolling Thunder* and *Upping the Anti*.

Jack Kloppenburg is a professor in the Dept. of Community and Environmental Sociology at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison who explores ways for people to live and thrive sustainably. Jack envisions a "foodshed" - a sustainable food system demonstrating many of the principles that define food sovereignty, such as local/regional food production and strong community institutions. He is excited by the possibilities of food sovereignty and the application of 'open source' principles to the biosciences.

Brewster Kneen has studied economics and theology in the U.S. and the U.K. and worked as a consultant to the churches on issues of social and economic justice. He is a former cattle and sheep producer who has written and lectured about the food system, paying special attention to biotechnology. He has written seven books related to the food system, and is currently focusing on the cultural and ideological underpinnings of public and political life.

We have block-booked rooms at the
Travelodge Ottawa Hotel & Conference Centre.

To receive the group rate, book before

October 26, 2013.

Remember—use your group code: **NATFAR**

Hotel Reservations, Call:

1-800-741-5072

or

1-613-722-7601

Room Rates:

\$135.00 single/double

(room rates subject to local sales tax and occupancy taxes)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

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

Fees do not include meals.



national farmers union

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national farmers union



**44th Annual
Convention**

*Growing
Resistance*

OTTAWA, ON

*Travelodge Ottawa Hotel &
Conference Centre
1376 Carling Avenue*

November 27 to 30, 2013

HOTEL RESERVATIONS, CALL:

1-800-741-5072

or

1-613-722-7601

USE GROUP CODE: NATFAR

CONVENTION THEME

Growing Resistance

When citizens don't know the terms of agreements being negotiated by their governments, but corporations do, the scene is set for 'Growing Resistance.' Every time a farmer plants a seed that is in the public domain, that farmer is 'Growing Resistance.' When a young farmer decides to enter into farming through an alternative form of land tenure, that farmer is 'Growing Resistance.' When citizens – farmers or not – who, in solidarity, object to and resist policies or initiatives that put corporations before people, they are 'Growing Resistance.'

And resistance is growing – everywhere. Today's political and economic reality is this: global corporations are exerting more than their share of influence in national and international spheres, and people have had enough.

In this Convention, we will hear about and discuss how dissent and resistance foster 'Growing Resistance' through the lens of seeds: their symbolic and real economic value; their role in achieving food sovereignty; who can and can't use them; who reaps the benefits, bears the risks and makes the decisions. We'll talk about how we grow resistance in small ways every day, and how together, we grow resistance against power structures that do not have our best interests in mind. Our intention is that participants leave Convention 2013 informed and energized, prepared to feed and water the 'Growing Resistance' already underway or just taking shape in their own communities.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, November 27:

- 6–10 PM **Registration**
- 7:00 PM **Pre-Convention Workshop:**
Organizing Campaigns, Building a Movement—Joan Kuyek (*see below*)

Thursday, November 28:

- 8:00 AM **Registration**
- Lobby Assembly Point:** location to be provided by National
- 1:00 PM **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2:15 PM **PANEL: *The Need for Resistance and Dissent In Healthy Societies***
- Ann McGrath - TBD
- Dave Oswald Mitchell
- 7:00 PM **PUBLIC MEETING—Jim Stanford:**
Our Communities. Our Country. Our World. Our Economy
In this globalized and fragmented world, how do we organize to transform the corporate-dominated economic system?

Friday, November 29:

- 8:30 AM **PANEL: *Rooted in Resistance: Food Sovereignty, Farmers & Farm Labour***
- 9:30 AM **PANEL: *Our Seeds, Ourselves***
- 1:30 PM **PANEL: *Seed Sovereignty: Building Strong Foundations***
- Jack Kloppenburg, *Open Source Biology*
- Terry Boehm, *A Farmers' Seed Act*
- 6:30 PM **Banquet and Dance**

Saturday, November 30:

- 10:00 AM **PANEL: *Feeding the World: Countering the Corporate Spin***
- Brewster Kneen
- TBD
- 10:45 AM **PANEL: *Big Oil vs Food Sovereignty***
- Doug Scott - Rick Munro
- Eriel Desranger
- 2:15 PM **PANEL: *Farm Practice as Political Strategy***
- Paul Slomp - TBD
- Randall Affleck - TBD
- 4:30 PM **CONVENTION ADJOURNMENT**

Organizing Campaigns, Building a Movement

Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 PM

Joan Kuyek, community organizer, activist educator and author of *Community Organizing: A Holistic Approach*, will lead our featured pre-Convention workshop on Wednesday evening. She says, "Working for community, for the healing and protection of the earth and for justice has organized my life in Canada for over forty years. Life as a community organizer has shaped my values and analysis of the world around me."

The "Organizing Campaigns, Building a Movement" workshop will offer ideas, tools and information along with lively discussion and sharing to help us create and advance effective campaigns to transform agriculture and food politics in Canada—and build the broad social movement for a better world.

If you would like to understand and create better campaigns and help build the movement, this workshop is for you!