

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Sarah Martin** studies the political economy of food and agriculture, including the financialization of agriculture and the relationship between commodity exchanges and farmers. Sarah's research is grounded in her previous work as a cook, chef and meat cutter in settings from institutional cafeterias to high-end restaurants to remote logging camps.

**André Magnan** researches the sociology of agrifood relations, globalization and development at the U of Regina. His work includes the history and politics of grain marketing on the Canadian prairies, the financialization of agrifood systems, and changing patterns of farm structure and ownership.

**Richard Gray** became interested in agricultural policy at early age. He worked as a grain market analyst for Sask Ag and Food before completing his Ph.D., and has been an agricultural economist at the University of Saskatchewan since 1990. His agricultural policy research includes agricultural trade, marketing, production economics and the economics of research. He also farms with his son Eric at Indian Head.

**Ian Robson** is the NFU Region 5 (Manitoba) Coordinator. He farms with his wife Lois and daughters at Deleau, Manitoba, raising wheat, canola, and cattle. Ian learned farming skills from his family who homesteaded in this area. The ability of farmers to work together, to cooperate, and find economic services that benefit the local farmers is proven to be a successful strategy, and is at the core of why Ian is an NFU member.

### **Progress Report on Research: Land Grabbing and Concentration in Saskatchewan:**

**Annette Desmarais, Nettie Wiebe, André Magnan, and Darrin Qualman** are documenting the concentration of farmland ownership in Canada. They will report on their first project, focusing on who is buying what land and where in three municipalities in Saskatchewan.

We have limited block of rooms at the  
*Hilton Garden Inn Downtown.*

To receive the group rate, book before  
**October 24, 2014.**

**Room Rates: \$189.00 single/double**  
(plus \$15/day parking) & (room rates subject to tax)

SEE INSERT FOR MORE HOTEL OPTIONS

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

There is **NO PRE-REGISTRATION.**

Registration fees can be paid for at Convention.

### REGISTRATION FEES

#### **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**



**45<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Convention**

*Claiming  
Our  
Livelihoods*

**SASKATOON, SK**

*Hilton Garden Inn Downtown*  
90—22nd St. East

**November 27—29, 2014**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS, CALL:**

**1-306-244-2311**

Or **EMAIL:**

**[heike.prey@hilton.com](mailto:heike.prey@hilton.com)**

**(or)**

**[rosalie.batista@hilton.com](mailto:rosalie.batista@hilton.com)**

## THEME—CLAIMING OUR LIVELIHOODS

Inequitable and undemocratic government policies that benefit transnational agri-business corporations are cornering farmers, driving them to dangerous levels of debt, lost marketing opportunities and more expensive inputs. This year's theme, "Claiming our Livelihoods", highlights the need for public policy that re-establishes a fair economic playing field - one that strengthens opportunities for family farmers and re-establishes public interest and food sovereignty.

## TERESA HEALY—KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Canada at a Crossroads:** Teresa Healy is a specialist in North American political economy, focusing on labour, community and public sector matters. She has written extensively on Canadian trade and investment policy and is the author of *Gendered Struggles against Globalisation in Mexico (2008)* and the editor of *The Harper Record (2008)*. Teresa and a colleague are currently editing *Good to go from the PM: Reflections on Canada's Conservative government 2008-2014* for publication in 2015.

# CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

### Wednesday, November 26:

6—10 PM: **Registration**

8:00 PM: **"Til the Cows Come Home" Film:**  
(see box below)

### Thursday, November 27:

8:00 AM: **Registration**

Morning: **Presentations:**

—**Branding: What it is, and why does it matter?** (see box below)

—**Democratic Process in the NFU and Beyond** (see box below)

Afternoon: **PANEL: The State of Farm Debt and Agricultural Financialization**  
- Sarah Martin - TBD - TBD

Evening: **PUBLIC MEETING—Teresa Healy:**  
**Canada at a Crossroads: Reflections on Canada's Conservative government**  
(see left panel)

### Friday, November 28:

Morning: **Presentation: Land Grabbing and Concentration in Saskatchewan**

**PANEL: Corporate Power and the Extraction of Rural Wealth**  
- André Magnan - TBD - TBD

Afternoon: **PANEL: Economics of Farmer Power: Lessons from the past; visions for the future**  
- Alan Slater - NFU Youth

### Saturday, November 29:

Morning: **PANEL: Livelihoods in a post-CWB world**  
- Ian Robson - Richard Gray - TBD

Afternoon: **PANEL: Acting to claim our livelihoods**  
How many different ways can NFU members and farmers elsewhere in the world "claim their livelihoods" through their farming activities? Hear the diverse stories of the farmers on this panel.

4:30 PM: **CONVENTION ADJOURNMENT**

## Wednesday, November 26 – 8:00 PM

**View "Til the Cows Come Home":** When the federal government decided to transform the correctional system to one that puts punishment first, prison farms were an early casualty. Strong opposition formed, and hundreds stood ready to block trucks brought in to remove the prize dairy herd from Frontenac Prison Farm in Kingston, Ontario. The film tells the story behind this extraordinary display of civil disobedience, and asks provocative questions about the Canadian government's hardening approach to criminal justice, food security....and democracy itself. *Kingston Local NFU member Dianne Dowling will be present to introduce the film and take questions afterwards.*

## Thursday, November 27 - Morning

**Branding: What is it, and why does it matter? (Presenters: Members of the Brand Development Working Group)**

The NFU is looking to attract new members and exert greater influence on decision-makers. Our brand – our "look and feel" – affects whether these people perceive us as a legitimate 21<sup>st</sup> century voice in the farming and food policy arena. This workshop will lay some groundwork to inform debate and decision-making about considering a "new look and feel" for the NFU brand.

**Democratic Process in the NFU and Beyond (Presenters: Cory Ollikka and Karen Pedersen)**

The democratic principles and procedures that NFU members use within our organization are powerful tools that can be used whenever we participate in public processes – from local government boards, to commodity group meetings, to Parliamentary Committee hearings. Cory and Karen will connect the dots between the NFU Convention procedures and the opportunities we can create other in arenas where we might otherwise feel intimidated or marginalized.

## *Pre-Convention Happenings*