



TRIUMVIRATE

The North American model parliament



*The North American Forum on Integration (NAFI) is inviting you to the fourth edition of the Triumvirate which will take place in the **Montreal City Hall, from the 25th to the 30th of May 2008.***

The Triumvirate will bring together for five days a hundred university students, from Canada, Mexico and the United States, to participate in an international negotiation exercise in which they will simulate a parliamentary meeting between North American political actors. Participants will be assigned one of the three following roles: legislator (representing a country other than their own), journalist or lobbyist.

Four themes of a political, economic and environmental nature will be the object of intense debates during this innovative and formative event.

www.fina-nafi.org

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each participating university can send a delegation of up to 8 students and an accompanying teacher (if so desired). The selection process is at the university's discretion but should respect the following criteria. Delegates:

- 1- must be undergraduates (excluding freshmen) or graduate students;
- 2- must have an interest in North American integration;
- 3- must understand and speak English and/or French.



Legislators at work in a parliamentary commission

MAIN OBJECTIVES

To bring future Canadian, American and Mexican leaders together in order to experience and take part in an international negotiation exercise.

To allow participants to familiarize themselves with the functioning of democratic institutions as well as North American political, economic, environmental and social realities.

To develop the participants' sense of belonging to North America.

To increase intercultural exchanges and promote the creation of North American academia networks.

To inform the current decision makers of the priorities and concerns of North American youth.

Legislators

Legislators have to face the challenge of representing a country other than their own. This experience greatly contributes to the development of knowledge. They either represent a parliament at the federal level or at the state/provincial level. The participants learn about the realities, the strengths and weaknesses of the entity they represent, and take this into account in order to develop their political positions. They discuss their assigned draft resolution in a commission and vote on all four resolutions in the plenary session. Daily national caucuses allow the legislators to define their strategies. Legislators are also encouraged to take part in the three press conferences in order to share their points of view with the media. A final lobbying session allows them to consolidate alliances and close deals. At the end of the week, participants fully comprehend the challenges related to international negotiations and better understand North American cooperation realities.

Journalists

Daily, a team of journalist prints out a newspaper during the simulation. The *TrilatHerald* covers the developments and evolution of the debates, the press conferences, and interviews with conference speakers, legislators and lobbyists. The newspaper is distributed to the participants and the partner organizations of the Triumvirate. It is also available on NAFI's website.

EL THE LE **TrilatHerald**



Christine Fréchette, President – NAFI founder

WORK DOCUMENTS

In order to help participants prepare for the simulation, NAFI sends the delegates a description of their assigned role, the Triumvirate Constitution, a Commissions Guide, a Participant's Handbook, an Official Program and information bulletins. Delegates must regularly visit our web site under the Triumvirate 2008 link for updates.

The 2008 edition will take place in French and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be available during the plenary session debates; however the parliamentary commissions will each take place in one of the two languages. Official documentation originating from NAFI will be available in three languages (French, English and Spanish), but the documents produced for the parliamentary commissions are available only in the official language of that commission. NAFI secretariat will communicate with the participants via the Internet.



Lunch conference

Lobbyists

Lobbyists will have to ensure that the amendments to the draft resolutions respect the interests of the organization they represent as well as the confidential mandate which will be assigned to them by NAFI. Each lobbyist will have to present a memoir within one parliamentary commission; comment on the commissions' work during caucus meetings; take part in the press conferences, publish an open letter exposing his or her opinion in the *TrilatHerald* and hand in a final report to the Triumvirate secretariat.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

The Triumvirate offers its participants the opportunity to meet distinguished North American political leaders. In the three first editions, conference speakers, such as former Canadian Ambassador Raymond Chrétien, Senator Enrique Jackson, President of the Mexican Congress Permanent Commission and Dr. Robert A. Pastor, Director of the Center for North American Studies at American University, helped participants better understand North American issues.



Sen. Jackson President of the Permanent Mexican Commission after his speech at the Triumvirate

Schedule

	Sunday May 25	Monday May 26	Tuesday May 27	Wednesday May 28	Thursday May 29	Friday May 30	
9:00 10:00	Participants' arrival Registration (from 4:00 to 6:00)	NAFI information session	Caucus per country	Caucus per country	Caucus per country	Caucus per country	
10:00 11:00			Caucus per country	4 parliamentary commissions	4 parliamentary commissions	Plenary	Plenary
11:00 1:00		Lunch conference				Lunch conference	Lunch conference
1:00 2:30		Election of commissions' presidents	Press conference	Press conference	Press conference	Plenary	- Current events debate - Award ceremony
2:30 3:00							
3:00 3:30		Plenary	Lobbying	Lobbying	Lobbying	End of program	
3:30 4:30							Dinner*
4:30 6:00		Dinner*	Dinner*	Dinner*	Dinner*	Dinner*	
6:00 Evening	Welcoming Cocktail						Dinner*

* Not included in participation fees

PARTICIPATION

Each university can send a delegation of **8 or less students** and one accompanying professor (if so desired). The **deadline** for university and student registration is **March 5th 2008**.

Participation fees for a delegation of 8 people or less:

4800 \$/univ. for registration completed before January 25th 2008;
5200 \$/univ. for registration completed after January 25th 2008.
Fees include 5 nights at the hotel, 5 breakfasts and 5 lunch conferences.

315 \$ per delegate or accompanying professor (for participating universities only). (An individual participation fee of 1045\$ applies to delegates whose university is not participating to the event).
Transportation fees to and from Montreal as well as dinner are at the delegate's expense. Each participant must have medical insurance and a traveling insurance.

Registration form

Participants must fill in a form available at www.fina-nafi.org in the section « Triumvirate 2008-Register ».

THE NORTH AMERICAN FORUM ON INTEGRATION

The Triumvirate was created and is organized by the North American Forum on Integration (NAFI). NAFI, a non-profit organization, is devoted to developing North American dialogue and networks. Created in 2002, NAFI aims to build awareness on the issues raised by North American integration and the importance of the challenges at hand.



- A Triumvirate is an alliance of three entities which each exert a power. It refers to a governing body led by three entities, here represented by the three North American countries.
- The number three represents also the three governmental powers: legislature, judiciary and executive.
- The rhombuses point towards one another, referring to the increasing co-operation between the countries through the strengthening of North American dialogue.
- The side by side position refers to the equality between the three countries.
- The quartets of rhombuses which each form a greater rhombus represent the American and Mexican states as well as the Canadian provinces and territories and also the four North American spheres of activities: environmental, economic, political and social.
- The graphic simplicity of the logo reflects the straightforwardness, which all North American institutions must have.



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