



THE TRIUMVIRATE

The North American Model Legislature
Querétaro (Mexico), May 24th to 29th, 2009



After Ottawa, Mexico, Washington and Montréal, the North American Forum on Integration (NAFI), in collaboration with ITESM-Campus Querétaro, invites you to Querétaro, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, for the Triumvirate 2009. This 5th edition will gather a hundred university students from Mexico, the United States and Canada to participate, from the 24th to the 29th of May 2009, in an international negotiation exercise in which they will simulate a parliamentary meeting between North American political actors. The legislators will debate themes of a political, economic and environmental nature, while lobbyists will attempt to influence the legislators' decisions and the *TrilatHerald* journalist team analyses the evolution of the debates.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Each participating university can send a delegation of eight students and an accompanying teacher. The selection process is at the university's discretion but should respect the following criteria established by NAFI. Delegates:

- ❖ Must be graduate or undergraduate students (exempt freshmen undergraduates);
- ❖ Must understand and speak English or Spanish;
- ❖ Must have an interest in North American integration issues.

For further information, visit
www.fina-nafi.org

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 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, which greatly contributes to the development of knowledge. They represent Congress at the federal and federated levels, which requires the participants to research the strengths and weaknesses of the entity they are representing. During five days, they must debate and vote in plenary sessions and legislative commissions on resolutions that were previously assigned to them. Daily national caucuses allow the legislators to define their strategies. Legislators are also encouraged to take part in the 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, a few hours before the final vote. 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.

LE THE **TrilatHerald**



Teatro de la República, Querétaro.

❖ LOBBYISTS ❖

Lobbyists will have to ensure that the amendments to the 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, and publish an open letter in the *TrilatHerald*. The legislators will seek lobbyists' support for the adoption of the resolutions.

❖ GETTING READY ❖

In the five months leading up to the simulation, the NAFI sends the participants important information such as their role and legislative commission, as well as divers work documents; such as the Triumvirate's Constitution, the Commission's Guide, the Participant's handbook and the Legislators Guide. The delegates must absolutely READ these documents in order to be informed of the simulations functioning and developments. They must also submit a paper on the theme they have been assigned two months before the simulation.



The 5th edition will take place in English and Spanish. The legislative commissions will take place in one of the two previously mentioned languages. Simultaneous interpretation will be available during plenary sessions. Official documentation originating from NAFI will be available in English, Spanish and French.

❖ CONFERENCE ❖

SPEAKERS

The Triumvirate offers its participants the opportunity to meet distinguished North American political and academic leaders. In the three first editions, conference speakers, such as former Canadian Ambassador Raymond Chrétien, Inter-American Development Bank President Luis Alberto Moreno, and Dr. Robert A. Pastor, Vice-Director of the American University, helped participants better understand North American issues.



❖ SCHEDULE ❖

	Sunday May 24	Monday May 25	Tuesday May 26	Wednesday May 27	Thursday May 28	Friday May 29
9:00 - 10:00	Participant's arrival Registration	NAFI Information session	Caucus per country	Caucus per country	Caucus per country	Caucus per country
10:00 - 11:00			Caucus per country	Legislative Commissions (4)	Legislative Commissions (4)	Plenary: Presentation of resolutions as amended by the commissions
11:00 - 13:00						
13:00 - 14:30		Lunch conference	Lunch conference	Lunch conference	Lunch conference	Lunch conference
14:30 - 15:00		Election of commissions' presidents	Press Conference	Press Conference	Press Conference	Plenary
15:00 - 15:30						
15:30 - 16:30		Plenary : presentation of resolutions	Legislative Commissions (4)	Legislative Commissions (4)	Lobbying	- Award ceremony
16:30 - 18:00						
Night						



- ❖ 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.

❖ PARTICIPATION FEES ❖

Each university can send a delegation of a maximum of **8 students** and one accompanying professor (if so desired). The **deadline** for university and student registration is **February 27th, 2009**.

Institutional fee for a delegation of at most 8 students: 5650\$CAN (tax incl.) per university. Fees include 5 hotel nights, 5 breakfasts and 5 lunch conferences for the delegation.

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Individual fee: 295\$CAN (tax incl.) per participant or accompanying professor (for participating universities only). (An individual participation fee of 1195\$CAN (tax incl.) applies to delegates whose university is not paying the institutional fee). Transportation fees to and from Queretaro as well as dinner are at the delegate's expense. Each participant must have medical insurance and a traveling insurance.

Participants must fill a **registration form** available at www.fina-nafi.org in the section « Triumvirate 2009 - Register ».

NAFI
3744 Jean-Brillant, bureau 581
Montréal (Qc) Canada H3T 1P1
Tél. : 514.343.7874
info@fina-nafi.org
www.fina-nafi.org



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.