



October 11, 2007

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1V 0A2

Sent by fax: 613-941-6900

Dear Prime Minister,

On March 23, 2005, Canada entered into a new "Security and Prosperity Partnership" (SPP) with the United States and Mexico. The controversial executive-level agreement contained over 300 initiatives aimed at harmonizing the way the three NAFTA countries regulate their economies, protect their environments, secure their territories and keep their citizens safe and healthy.

While the stated goal of this new "partnership" is to make North American citizens safer and more prosperous, to date there has been no public consultation on the necessity or desirability of greater continental economic and security integration. This is despite major concerns with some of the SPP's more controversial initiatives, such as Canada's "Passenger Protect" no-fly list, and the harmonization of pesticide residue limits and toxic chemical regulations with the United States.

Only 30 CEOs from North America's richest corporations, including Lockheed Martin, Bank of Nova Scotia, Chevron, Power Corporation and Merck, have had any meaningful input into the SPP. And only they have been invited to annual closed-door meetings of SPP leaders and ministers, like the one you hosted in Montebello, Quebec this past August.

Your government ran on a campaign of accountability. Part of that campaign included a promise that, "significant international treaties will be submitted for votes in Parliament." We call on you to make good on this promise by engaging Canadians in a meaningful and accessible debate on the "Security and Prosperity Partnership," and by bringing the agreement to Parliament for a vote. We anticipate that this debate will be a top priority for your government in the coming parliamentary session.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Maude Barlow
National Chairperson, Council of Canadians

Ken Georgetti
President, Canadian Labour Congress

David Suzuki
Founder, The David Suzuki Foundation

Maher Arar

Monia Mazigh

Cc: The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Liberal Party Leader
Cc: The Honourable Jack Layton, NDP Leader
Cc: The Honourable Gilles Duceppe, Bloc Party Leader
Cc: Elizabeth May, Green Party Leader