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# NAFTA and Beyond

Wayne Robinson
*Director, Marketing and Professional Development, Estey Centre for Law and Economics in International Trade*

On September 30, 2002 the Estey Centre for Law and Economics in International Trade, with the generous sponsorship of the Saskatchewan Department of Industry and Resources, held a conference in Saskatoon Saskatchewan, entitled "NAFTA and Beyond". The event brought together leading experts from business, academic, government and legal communities in Canada and the United States to explore specific North American trade issues, and to look beyond to the possible hemispheric Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Papers presented at the conference, which included subjects such as softwood lumber, agricultural subsidies and the U.S Farm Bill, labor mobility, Latina micro-enterprise and the US-Mexican border economy, culture, trade in biotechnology, trade and exchange rate coherence, as well as a piece on what the FTAA means for the south, will be published in this journal over the coming weeks. The series begins with a paper by Dr. William Kerr, Senior Associate of the Estey Centre and Van Vliet Professor, University of Saskatchewan, entitled "NAFTA and Beyond: Challenges for Extending Free Trade in the Hemisphere".

The Estey Centre would like to thank the conference sponsor, Saskatchewan Industry and Resources for its generous financial support, as well as our partners in this endeavor, the U.S. Congressional Advisory Council, the U.S. Consulate General in Calgary, the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, and The Canadian Council for the Americas. Special thanks go to Mr. Raul Chavera, Consul General of the United States in Calgary, for inspiring this event; to Mr. David Winfield, Chairman, The Canadian Council for the Americas, for his superb job as chair of the proceedings; and to the management and staff of the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, without whose outstanding organizational skills this event would not have been possible.

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