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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2016

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Fair Trade Village and Workshops at World Social Forum will Address Trade Policy, Economic Justice, Climate Change and Small-Scale Farmers

Coalition of Fair Trade Advocates to Facilitate Open Discussions, Educational Opportunities and Exhibitions at International Meeting of Civil Society Groups

MONTREAL, CAN - Leading Fair Trade advocacy organizations from around the world are working together to highlight myriad issues related to trade policy and economic justice at the 2016 World Social Forum (WSF), to be held in Montreal, Canada, August 9-14. Represented through a public exhibition called **The Fair Trade Village**, and numerous workshops as part of the forums broader programming, issues facing the Fair Trade movement, small-scale producers, trade policy and the global economy in general will be a big focus of discussion at this year's largest gathering of civil society organizations. Debate and controversy around trade policy, the impact and legacy of NAFTA and other historic trade deals as well as the pending Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), currently a major topic in the 2016 U.S. Presidential campaigns, provide a backdrop to many of the pressing issues effecting the global Fair Trade movement.

The **Fair Trade Village**, located in the heart of Jarry Park, will showcase Fair Trade companies and organizations that are committed to building an economic model that prioritizes people and the planet before profit. Together, both the **Fair Trade Village** and the many **Fair Trade movement-led workshops** at the World Social Forum itself will demonstrate the power of small-scale farmers and producers to create true systems of economic change. Fair trade brands and small-scale producer organizations that produce Fair Trade coffee, tea, honey, and spices, as well as non-profit organizations from Canada and the U.S. will be represented, with the shared mission of raising awareness about the need to support Fair Trade , and how doing so benefits farmers, producers, consumers and the environment.

For background on the history and context of Fair Trade, watch The Fair Trade Story:

<http://fairworldproject.org/campaigns/keeping-fair-trade-real/>

Both open to the public, the Fair Trade focused workshops (included in WSF registration) and the **Fair Trade Village** (free of charge) will offer educational opportunities, Fair Trade product samples,



and information about the successes and ongoing market challenges to Fair Trade. The various workshops focused on Fair Trade at the World Social Forum will take place August 10th through 12th, a sampling of this schedule, follows:

- August 10, 13h00 – 15h30** Fair Trade Hot Topics
- August 12, 9h00 – 11h30** How Small-Scale Farmers can Cool the Planet by Partnering with Fair Brands
- August 12, 13h00 – 15h30** Beyond Certification—Examples of Fair Trade of and for the People

For the complete schedule of fair trade workshops and panel discussions taking place, please visit https://fsm2016.org/en/activites_liste.

The **Fair Trade Village** will take place all day on August 13th and 14th near the ECOSPHERE in Jarry Park, where the World Social Forum continues for these two days, and will include Fair Trade crafts for sale, product samples, and information from leading non-governmental organizations.

This manifestation is being facilitated by the first coalition of its kind focusing on Fair Trade to attend the World Social Forum, and is composed of **World Fair Trade Organization (wfto.com)**, **Fair World Project (fairworldproject.org)**, **Fair Trade Federation (fairtradefederation.org)**, **Canadian Fair Trade Network (cftn.ca)**, **Association Québécoise du Commerce Équitable (assoquebecequitable.org)**, **Coop Coffee (http://coopcoffees.coop/)**, and **the Fair Trade Advocacy Office (fairtrade-advocacy.org)**.

The World Social Forum is an annual meeting of civil society organizations, who gather to engage in democratic debate and solution-oriented discussion about the world's most pressing social issues. For more information about the World Social Forum, visit <https://fsm2016.org/en/>.

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