

# NEWS

FROM

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For immediate release

WLU suggests establishments of new  
research institutes to serve Ontario

Wilfrid Laurier University believes Ontario should establish several research institutes in order "to regain the leadership the province seems to have lost in recent years."

The suggestion came in the university's annual brief to the Ontario council on university affairs, to be presented to the council when it meets in Waterloo April 25.

The university believes establishing the institutes with fresh funding would be more productive than simply taking money from present university support and earmarking it for research.

WLU points out that university funding in Ontario is already below the average for Canada as a whole and believes a further reduction would be counter-productive since it would reduce the quality of teaching below acceptable levels.

Establishment of several research institutes could distribute new funds along with federal monies now available for research and development. The institutes could attempt to extend our knowledge in the humanities, and in the social and natural sciences.

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Funding for the institutes could come directly from the private sector, through additional taxation or through lotteries.

Alternatively, another ministry of the provincial government, such as industry and tourism, might incorporate these expenditures into its own budget without drawing on the already minimal resources of the ministry of colleges and universities.

The brief says Wilfrid Laurier University has a continuing contribution to make toward research and development in Ontario.

"Many active scholars have chosen WLU and have maintained contacts and collaboration with other scholars at larger institutions both within North America and abroad," the brief adds.

"It seems to WLU that academics of a medium-size university are even more apt to maintain collaborative ties with fellow academics at other institutions than are their counterparts at larger institutions.

"At least a third of our faculty is actively involved in research and publication activities with faculty members of other universities. It cannot be assumed that smaller universities are parochial institutions with no role to play in research, publication and development."

And the brief cites two recent developments at WLU--the establishment of a data bank on clinical practice in social work and a new fibre optics system to serve research needs of WLU, other universities and private industry.