

NEWS RELEASE

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Conference to examine criminal justice system

Canada's criminal justice system is facing some of its greatest challenges in decades.

Society is rapidly changing; it is fraught with social unrest. We have the paradox of falling serious crime statistics coupled with a rising fear of crime. And Canadians are calling for stiffer sentences, tightened parole regulations, and just punishment.

Laurier's Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Office of Continuing Education are sponsoring a conference, entitled *The Changing Face of Criminal Justice in the Late 1990s*, to provide justice practitioners, students, and other interested parties with an opportunity to learn first-hand about the current evolution of the criminal justice system.

The conference, beginning Friday night, April 19, and continuing on Saturday, April 20, will feature prominent figures in the criminal justice field.

The keynote speaker on Friday night will be Marie-Andrée Drouin, warden of the Grand Valley Institution for Women, which is scheduled to open in Kitchener in April. She will speak at 7 p.m. The keynote speaker on Saturday is John Rosen, a prominent Ontario criminal lawyer, who will speak at 9:30 a.m.

The conference will also feature two panel discussions. In the morning, Dr. Mamie Rice, the 1995 recipient of the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Contribution to Research in Public Policy and author of a book on violence in institutions, and Ken Sandhu, president of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association and a director of the American Probation and Parole Association, will speak on *The Changing Faces of Criminal Justice*.

In the afternoon, panelists - including Aston Hall, a criminal lawyer and past president of the Black Law Students' Association of Osgoode Hall law school, and Dr. Susan Reid MacNevin, a University of Guelph professor and director of the John

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Howard Society of Canada - will address issues such as racism, youth crime, services to young offenders, and women's issues. Their discussion is entitled Loops, Holes and Challenges in the Criminal Justice System in the late 1990s.

Registration fee for the conference is \$179 before March 22, (\$219 afterwards) or \$89 for students, which includes a reception on April 19 and a luncheon on April 20. To attend the April 19 keynote address only, the fee is \$15 (\$7.50 for students) in advance, or \$20 at the door (\$15 for students).

The conference, which has been accredited for continuing education units by the Ontario Association of Social Workers and the Addiction Intervention Association, takes place in the Paul Martin Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University.

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