

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Experts at Laurier's economic outlook seminar examine the future of our national and regional economies**

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WATERLOO – Experts at Laurier's Economic Outlook 2007 seminar, *Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Economic Growth* will provide insight into the future of our regional and national economies amid increased international competition and a high Canadian dollar. The event takes place on Thursday, November 23, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

Speakers include Rick Harris, one of Canada's most well-known international economists and professor of economics at Simon Fraser University; Craig Wright, vice-president and chief economist at RBC Financial Group and a Laurier alumnus, and David A. Wolfe, professor of political science at the University of Toronto.

"In addition to talking about things like the future of the Canadian dollar and the macroeconomy, our keynote speakers this year will highlight the importance of technology firms clustering together in our region, as well as the role that innovation plays in stimulating economic growth," said Bill Morrison, associate professor of economics at Laurier. "The seminar will be of interest to anyone who wants to know what the experts have to say about what's in store for our regional, provincial and national economies."

Iain Klugman, president and CEO of Communitel, added, "This year, the Economic Outlook seminar is exceptionally exciting – with themes of particular relevance to the

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Waterloo region tech industry. It's great to have an event that not only considers the big picture of the economy but also connects the macroeconomy to our network of innovators and entrepreneurs. These are the people and firms that can and do give us the ability to compete on a global scale."

The keynote speakers will bring an international focus to the seminar. Harris is an internationally known researcher whose major area of specialization is international economics. His current research includes the determinants of productivity growth, the Canadian 'brain drain,' North American monetary integration, and the new economy. He has served as consultant to a number of Canadian government departments and international organizations, including the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

As chief economist at RBC, Wright analyses and forecasts macroeconomic and financial market developments in North America and significant overseas economies. He is a regular contributor to RBC Financial Group publications and a key player in delivering economic analysis to clients and the media. A Laurier graduate, Wright is also a member of the dean's advisory council for Laurier's School of Business and Economics.

In addition to his role at the University of Toronto, Wolfe has served as the executive coordinator for economic and labour policy in the Ontario government cabinet office and is a member of the advisory committee on science and technology statistics for the science and technology redesign project at Statistics Canada. He co-founded the Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems (PROGRIS) at the Centre for International Studies.

This year's seminar is co-sponsored by the Laurier Centre for Economic Policy, Certified Management Accountants of Ontario, Royal Bank of Canada, The Record and The Centre for International Governance Innovation.

The Economic Outlook seminar has been an annual event at Laurier's School of Business and Economics for over 10 years. Topics range from current microeconomic issues of our region to the broader issues of international trade, globalization and macroeconomic forecasts of inflation, employment and economic growth.

Tickets for the event are \$20. To register, contact the Laurier Centre for Economic Policy: 519-884-1970 ext. 6999 or [cdaly@wlu.ca](mailto:cdaly@wlu.ca). For more information, please visit the event website: [www.wlu.ca/economicoutlook](http://www.wlu.ca/economicoutlook).