

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Waterloo universities to co-host largest academic gathering in Canada**

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WATERLOO — Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo will welcome thousands of scholars to the region in 2012 as co-hosts of the largest academic gathering in Canada — the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS) recently approved a joint bid by the two universities to host the organization's 2012 conference in Waterloo.

“The level of co-operation between Laurier and UW’s faculties of arts is a rare and valued commodity among Canadian universities,” said David Docherty, Laurier’s dean of arts. “We look forward to showcasing our capabilities to the more than 7,500 national and international academics who will visit our schools.”

“Congress 2012 is a collaborative effort that will highlight why Waterloo Region is widely recognized as being one of the world’s most innovative communities,” said Ken Coates, University of Waterloo’s dean of arts. “We are excited to host the congress delegates as one of the many joint efforts between our two universities.”

The prospect of hosting the congress in Waterloo for the first time in the federation’s 76-year history gained early support from local organizations such as the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), the City of Waterloo, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce.

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“We have been extremely impressed by the level of commitment and enthusiasm expressed by both universities as well as representatives of the local community, and we know that this bodes well for the 2012 congress,” CFHSS president Noreen Golfman said in a letter announcing the successful bid.

Delegates will enjoy lectures, a speaker series, symposia, a scholarly book fair with more than 150 publishers, special events put on by the host universities, and local cultural attractions as part of the weeklong conference.

CFHSS organizes the annual conference, formerly known as the Learned, in collaboration with host universities. A non-profit charitable organization, CFHSS represents more than 50,000 researchers in 66 associations and 71 universities and colleges. The Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences has been an annual event since 1931.