

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Former Canadian High Commissioner Bryan Burton to visit Laurier *Burton will discuss conflict resolution in Northern Uganda in public lecture*

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WATERLOO – Bryan Burton, a former Canadian high commissioner who played an integral role in establishing peace in Northern Uganda, will be at Wilfrid Laurier University to deliver a public lecture about the negotiations that led to the April 2008 Ugandan Peace Agreement. The lecture will take place at 7:30 p.m. on October 6, in room 1E1 of Laurier's Arts Building.

Northern Uganda has suffered from one of the most protracted conflicts in Africa. The conflict between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda destabilized the region and forced the relocation of over 1.7 million people. Peace talks mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan were initiated in Juba, Sudan, in 1996.

Serving Canadian Foreign Affairs for over 35 years, Burton became involved with the Ugandan conflict in 1998 and acted as Canada's official observer to peace talks in 2008. He remained in Uganda until LRA leader Joseph Kony signed the Final Peace Agreement, and is currently a resident.

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“Burton’s appearance connects local NGOs, our community, our students, and our university as an institution to a global world,” says Peter Donahue, director of Laurier International.

“This event provides a unique example of conflict resolution and mediation. We teach about these experiences in class but it’s not everyday we have someone who’s directly involved come and speak.”

The former high commissioner will also visit Laurier’s Brantford campus on October 7 to meet with representatives from the Tshepo Institute for the Study of Contemporary Africa and discuss Uganda’s development priorities and the role the Canadian government is playing through organizations such as the Canadian International Development Agency. Burton will participate in a roundtable discussion and a class lecture in the afternoon.

Burton’s visit has been arranged by Laurier International, the Global Studies Department and the Tshepo Institute in collaboration with Peace For All International, a non-profit organization that works with communities around the world to achieve peace, promote healing and create self-sufficient economies.