

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Author Joseph Boyden visits Laurier to read from *Through Black Spruce*

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Contact: Clare Hitchens, Publicist, Wilfrid Laurier University Press
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2665 or clare@press.wlu.ca

or Kevin Crowley, Associate Director: News and Editorial Services
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

WATERLOO – Award-winning Canadian author Joseph Boyden will visit Wilfrid Laurier University on November 10 at 7 p.m. to read from his latest novel, *Through Black Spruce*, recently shortlisted for the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

“*Through Black Spruce* explores the challenges of living in a remote and largely aboriginal community in Northern Ontario, and the big cities of Toronto and New York,” says Dr. Paul Maxim, associate vice-president: research. “It touches on themes with which we can all relate.”

Through Black Spruce is Boyden’s second novel; his first, *Three Day Road*, brought him a number of awards and a shortlist for the Governor General’s Award for Fiction. A Canadian, Boyden has Irish, Scottish and Métis roots. He teaches writing at the University of New Orleans and frequently travels to northern Ontario.

Boyden’s visit is part of the university’s Laurier Reads program, an annual initiative that encourages the Laurier community to embark on a shared literary adventure, including reading circles and Facebook discussion sites.

Boyden’s reading will take place November 10 at 7 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre. A group of Aboriginal faculty, staff, and students from Laurier will perform a hand drum song, *The Water Song*, before the reading. Admission is free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale. *Through Black Spruce* and *Three Day Road* are available at the Laurier Bookstore at a 20 percent discount.

For further information, contact Clare Hitchens at (519) 884-1970 ext. 2665 or clare@press.wlu.ca or Elin Edwards at (519) 884-1970 ext. 3533 or eedwards@wlu.ca.