

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Laurier to stage emergency lockdown exercise on Waterloo campus**

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WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will stage a critical-incident simulation between 8 a.m. and noon on Wednesday, Nov. 26 so that emergency personnel can test Laurier’s emergency lockdown procedures. The exercise will involve a person playing the role of an armed intruder who takes hostages inside the Willison Hall residence building.

“We are committed to providing a safe environment for Laurier’s faculty, staff and students, therefore it is important for us as an institution to practice our emergency response plans,” said Laurier president Dr. Max Blouw. “This simulation will allow us to test our lockdown procedures and make improvements as needed.”

The lockdown exercise is a collaborative effort involving the University, Laurier’s Special Constable Service, Laurier’s Emergency Response Team, the Waterloo Regional Police, the City of Waterloo, the Waterloo Fire Department and Waterloo Region’s Emergency Medical Service. There will be a visible police and emergency services presence for this exercise and teams of tactical officers will be on campus with emergency vehicles and full gear.

Members of the news media are invited to view the exercise from an observation area adjacent to Willison Hall. A news conference will be held later in the day to discuss the lockdown simulation. Journalists interested in observing the exercise are asked to contact Kevin Crowley at 519-884-0710 ext. 3070, or [kcrowley@wlu.ca](mailto:kcrowley@wlu.ca), in advance.

Over the next three weeks, Laurier will use a variety of media — posters, emails, website notices, display tables, Laurier’s internal newspaper, and advertisements in student newspapers — to make the Laurier community aware of the Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> exercise and the University’s lockdown procedures and emergency response plan.

Faculty, staff and students who are on campus at the time of the exercise will be asked to take a few moments to discuss the University’s lockdown procedures. The lockdown procedures and emergency plan are available at [www.wlu.ca/emergency](http://www.wlu.ca/emergency).