



# NEWS

FROM

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Centre for social welfare

Studies established at WLU

A new centre just established at Wilfrid Laurier University will provide research and development assistance for social welfare agencies and conduct research in the field.

To be known as the Centre for Social Welfare Studies, its main objective will be to provide usable knowledge and the fruits of applied research to enable social welfare agencies to serve their clients more effectively.

Named first director of the centre is Dr. Gary Cameron, assistant professor in Laurier's faculty of social work.

The centre will operate with leadership from the faculty of social work and from the university's research office, and will be supported by a team of active researchers from the faculty and from other areas within the university community, and beyond.

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Dr. Shankar Yelaja, dean of social work, said the centre is the first of its kind in Ontario and one that is badly needed, particularly by small and medium-sized agencies which often lack the resources and staff to conduct needed research projects.

"The new centre will link the Laurier social work faculty with the agencies so that we can respond to their research and development needs more effectively," Yelaja said.

"We could, for example, assist agencies with such things as staff training and upgrading, the establishment of data bases, and help with program management and evaluation."

The centre will also sponsor conferences and workshops to provide interaction between academic researchers and professional practitioners, and conduct continuing education and staff development projects for agencies.

Dr. Cameron said now is an excellent time for social welfare agencies to get in touch with him if there is an interest in exploring the possibility of developing some collaborative project to respond to a particular research or development need.

The new director earned his bachelor's degree at McGill University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Toronto. His doctorate was earned at Columbia University.

Prior to joining Wilfrid Laurier University, Cameron worked extensively in community organizations and as an administrator of community programs.

Appointed in 1981 to the social work faculty, Cameron has taught primarily in the community development, social planning and social administration areas.

As a co-researcher in a long-term project funded by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, Cameron and his colleagues recently designed and implemented a major study of family support measures in child welfare. The findings of his researches have been widely distributed to child welfare personnel in Ontario.

His other recent research includes work on organizational effectiveness and on social work employment.