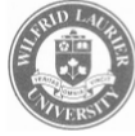


NEWS RELEASE

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Laurier appoints co-directors of Cold Regions Research Centre

Dr. Scott Slocombe, a resources geographer, and Dr. Michael English, a physical geographer, have been named co-directors of the Cold Regions Research Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont. They will serve three-year terms.

The centre was established in 1988 to research resource development in cold environments. While the emphasis has been on cold region hydrology, geomorphology, and climatology, many projects have also involved studies of the impacts on people and resources. Several involve risk analysis.

The appointments reflect a move toward more research in the social sciences and more interdisciplinary projects.

Slocombe's research interests include sustainable development, and environmental planning and management. He has been studying the planning and management of the Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks and Preserve region of the Yukon and Alaska.

Protected since the Second World War and made a national park in the 1970s, the area is at the centre of tensions among

conservationists, Indians pressing land claims, and local residents seeking economic opportunities.

This year Slocombe will study ecosystem approaches to environmental planning in the Kluane/Wrangells, Beaufort Sea, Australian Alps, and Prince William Sound areas.

An assistant professor of geography, Slocombe joined Laurier in 1989. He completed his doctorate at the University of Waterloo.

English specializes in watershed hydrology and chemistry. Working with researchers from other universities, he is studying how the quality of surface water on Axel Heiberg Island in the Northwest Territories is affected over the summer months. The changes in water quality may hold clues to the effects of global warming 20 or 30 years from now.

English is also studying groundwater acidification near Dorset, Ont.

Also an assistant professor of geography, English came to Laurier in 1986. He received his doctorate from McGill University.

Other projects of the centre include:

- * studies of hazards such as landslides and avalanches in the Karakoram Himalaya of Pakistan and other mountainous regions;
- * research on high mountain hydrology and geomorphology in the Rocky Mountains;
- * studies of snow melt chemistry and hydrology at an acidic precipitation monitoring site north of Sault Ste. Marie.