

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Lorna Marsden named next president of Wilfrid Laurier University

Waterloo, Ont. (Nov. 6, 1991) — Robert M. Astley, chair of the board of governors, today announced the appointment of Dr. Lorna Marsden as president and vice-chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University, effective Aug. 1, 1992. Dr. Marsden will succeed Dr. John Weir, who is retiring from the post after leading the university with distinction since 1982.

Dr. Marsden is currently a member of the Senate of Canada. On taking up her duties with the university, she will resign her Senate seat.

"University issues have long been a major interest and the invitation to lead Wilfrid Laurier University is irresistible," she said. "It attracts excellent students and faculty and has a loyal alumni. It has been well-developed and managed and I think it is one of the lesser known gems of our post-secondary system. In a city that has another strong university, Wilfrid Laurier is part of a community of scholars, scientists, and innovative thinkers. I look forward to the challenge and am eager to get started."

With this appointment, Dr. Marsden continues a stellar academic career. She gained a bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto in 1968 and her PhD from Princeton University in 1972. In 1990, she received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of New Brunswick.

She has been on the faculty of the University of Toronto since 1972. She was chair of the department of sociology, associate dean of the graduate school, and vice-provost of arts and science. For the past 10 years she has been a senior fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto. She teaches in the area of economic sociology

and has written a number of books and articles, including *The Fragile Federation: Social Change in Canada*, 1979, and with two colleagues, *Lives of Their Own*, 1991.

Dr. Marsden serves on the advisory panel on women, population and development at the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in New York, on the research council of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and as founding director of the Child, Youth and Family Policy Research Centre, in Toronto. She is a public representative on the Canadian Medical Association Committee on the Accreditation of Medical Schools, and was a study team chair on the Ontario government's study of community colleges, *Vision 2000*, from 1988-90.

Appointed to the Senate in 1984, Senator Marsden has served as the chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, 1989-91, a sponsor of a private bill to amend the copyright laws as they discriminate against schools, universities and researchers, and been active on the National Finance Committee, including the study of the financing of post-secondary education.

Additionally, Dr. Marsden has served on the board of Air Canada, 1978-84, as third president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, 1975-77, program chair of the Governor General's Study Conference, 1987, national vice-president, 1975-77, and chair of the policy committee, 1980-84, of the Liberal Party of Canada.

Lorna Marsden was born and raised in Sidney, British Columbia, and has lived in Toronto since 1972.

With 6,000 full-time students, Laurier is a select, smaller university known for the strength of its undergraduate teaching. It features innovative programs such as music therapy; co-operative education in business, arts and science; and video distance education. In recent years, the expansion of graduate programs in arts, business, and social work has contributed to an emerging reputation for scholarly inquiry; the university houses seven research centres.