

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Contact: **Julia Ann Easley**
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-1970 ext. 2070

Oct. 9, 1992
52-1992

Lorna Marsden to be officially installed as president of Laurier

Waterloo, Ont. (Oct. 9, 1992) — Lorna Marsden will be installed as president and vice-chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University at the university's fall convocation at the Kitchener Auditorium on Sunday, Oct. 25. She will also address convocation.

John Weir, who retired after leading the university for 10 years, will be honored as professor emeritus and about 450 graduands will receive degrees and diplomas at the ceremony, which will begin at 2:15 p.m.

The day's other festivities will include concerts featuring the WLU Symphony Orchestra and members of the faculty of music, receptions, and a dinner in honor of the new president.

Marsden, who took office on Aug. 1, is the fourth president since the university became public in 1972. She will lead this select, smaller university through what will be a pivotal time in its own history and, indeed, in the life of all Canadian universities.

"Laurier is poised to become highly competitive in the international world of smaller universities," Marsden says. "We aim to make it so.

"Laurier offers small classes, personal attention, and excellent academics, athletics, and community service. It has fantastic potential."

Born and raised in Sidney, B.C., Marsden earned 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.

A member of faculty at the University of Toronto for 20 years, Marsden was a senior fellow at Massey College for the last 10 years and distinguished herself in several

(MORE)

administrative positions. A specialist in the area of economic sociology, she 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.

Appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1984, Marsden resigned her seat to assume the leadership of WLU. In September, she was recognized as Political Woman of the Year for 1992 by the Ottawa Business and Professional Women's Association.

She continues to serve 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; as founding director of the Child, Youth and Family Policy Research Centre in Toronto; and as a member of the Guild Inn Group of the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Studies.

As a senator, Marsden served as 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 a member of the National Finance Committee, including the study of the financing of post-secondary education.

Additionally, Marsden 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; and national vice-president, 1975-77, and chair of the policy committee, 1980-84, of the Liberal Party of Canada. She was also 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.

Laurier, with 6,000 full-time students, is known for the strength of its undergraduate teaching. 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.