

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Sept. 27, 1994
76-1994

Laurier panel to discuss social services for families in the '90s

Waterloo, Ont. (Sept. 27) — Diverse definitions of the family and how to meet *its* changing needs will be explored by a panel of social workers at Wilfrid Laurier University on Thursday, Oct. 6.

The 21st annual presentation of the Easton-McCarney Program will focus on the family this year in recognition of the International Year of the Family. This free and public event will begin at 8 p.m. in Rm. 1025 of the Frank Peters Building.

"Traditional definitions of the family are becoming obsolete," says Wendy Redekop, acting associate planner for Social Services of Waterloo Region and one of the organizers.

She says social workers now serve same-sex couples raising children, fathers parenting children on their own, youth living independently or refugees still traumatized by experiences in their homeland.

The discussion will address two especially important questions: how policies, programs, and staff expectations are evolving to meet the changing needs of families and how individuals, communities, employers, and government can better support families now and in the future.

The panelists — whose work has involved them in rural communities, large urban centres, and national policy discussions — will make brief presentations and then invite comment from the audience.

They are Cathy Brothers, executive director of Catholic Family Counselling in Kitchener; Sonia Pouyat, executive director Notre Dame of St. Agatha; Trevor Williams, chief executive officer of the Parkinson Foundation of Canada and formerly executive director of Family Service Canada in Ottawa; and Paul Zarnke, executive director of the Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto. All are alumni of the university.

Well known for its emphases on clinical and community social work, the faculty of social work at Laurier has about 200 master's and 25 doctoral students. The university's Centre for Social Welfare Studies conducts applied social welfare research and focuses on program development, management, and evaluation in social agencies.