

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Contact: **Julia Ann Easley**
WLU Information Officer
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070

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Crown attorney to discuss sexual assault, criminal harassment

Waterloo, Ont. (Nov. 9) — Sexual assault and criminal harassment will be discussed from a legal perspective in two presentations for students and employees of Wilfrid Laurier University on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

Marc Garson, acting crown attorney for the District of Manitoulin, will present the legal definitions of the offences and their implications for both men and women. He will also outline the view that courts are now taking of the offences.

"Everyone has heard that 'no' means 'no'," says Garson. "That's not even the beginning of the law. Any act or gesture that even suggests 'no' means 'no'."

Garson adds that it is important for men and women to understand that ignorance of the law is no defence against such charges and that an accused must prove that reasonable steps were taken to determine consent.

Garson was recently appointed acting crown attorney for the District of Manitoulin. As assistant crown attorney for the District of Sudbury for the last three years, he was a designated specialist for sexual assault prosecutions. He frequently speaks to police groups, organizations concerned with preventing violence, and high school and postsecondary students.

Peter Jorg, manager of security services at WLU, asked Garson to speak at Laurier after hearing him at a campus security conference in April.

The sessions will take place at noon and 4 p.m. in the Turret on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building.

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**Note: Garson will be available to meet with reporters at 11 a.m. in Alumni Hall.
At his request, only the beginning of the noon session will be open to the media.**