

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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WLU to host three workshops on proposed changes in social welfare

Waterloo, Ont. (Jan. 4) — The proposed changes to Canada's social welfare policy will be discussed from the perspectives of three levels of government during a workshop at Wilfrid Laurier University on Friday, Jan. 13.

It will be the first workshop in a series of three entitled "Social Welfare in Transition: Implications for Policy, Administration, and Practice."

The series is being offered to assist social work practitioners — from front-line workers to administrators, teachers, community agency staff, clergy, and interested members of the public — to understand the current trends and future directions of social policy and their impact on the practice of social work and the people served.

Sponsored by the Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers and Laurier, the workshops, in turn, will examine the proposed changes and the issues they raise from the perspectives of government, agencies, and recipients.

Panelists for the first workshop will be Patrick Johnston, special adviser on social security reform for Human Resources Development Canada; Marilyn Stephenson, area manager for the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services; and Phil Johnston, commissioner of social services for Waterloo Region.

Following the presentation, there will be a discussion period and a luncheon.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre.

(More)

On Feb. 17, representatives from four organizations will discuss their views on implementing new policies and maintaining accountability. They will explore both the creative opportunities and the structural constraints of existing policy.

Panelists will be Marilyn Thompson, assistant executive director of Cambridge Memorial Hospital; Ernie Ginsler, executive director of the Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo; Joan MacKenzie Davies, executive director of the Ontario Association of Professional Social Workers; and Moe Brubacher, executive director of Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County.

On March 24, community leaders from Onward Willow (a community centre and program of Better Beginnings, Better Futures) in Guelph and from' Greenway Chaplin Community Centre in Cambridge will discuss issues identified by recipients of social services.

Advance registration, including lunch, is \$129 for all three workshops or \$49 each. Tickets at the door are \$59 but do not include lunch. To register, call Laurier's office of continuing education at (519) 884-1970 ext. 4881 or 4106.

Well known for its emphases on clinical and community social work, the faculty of social work at Laurier has 2,056 alumni; currently, there are 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.