

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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### **Laurier to award four honorary degrees May 26 and 27**

*Waterloo, Ont. (May 8)* — The former president of a German university, a Canadian senator who has spent her life advancing the status of children, a noted Toronto artist and a former federal cabinet minister noted for his promotion of internationalism will receive honorary degrees at Wilfrid Laurier University's spring convocation ceremonies on Friday, May 26, and Saturday, May 27.

Walter Kröll, former president of Phillips University in Marburg, Germany, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree on May 26. He will also address convocation.

Landon Pearson, a Canadian senator and children's advocate, will also receive an honorary doctor of laws degree on that day.

Paul Fournier, who in 1969 was the first artist-in-residence at WLU (when it was Waterloo Lutheran University), will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at convocation on May 27.

Walter McLean, former Waterloo MP and a cabinet minister in the Mulroney government, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree on May 27. He will also address convocation.

About 1,370 graduands will receive degrees over the two days. The ceremonies will begin at 1:15 p.m. in the Mutual Arena of the Waterloo Recreation Complex.

Additional information on the honorary degree recipients:

**Walter Kröll:** A physicist, Kröll was the founding rector of the University of Essen from 1972 to 1979. As president of Philipps University in Marburg from 1979 to 1987, he helped establish the student and faculty exchange with Laurier. Since 1987, he has been chairman of the executive board of the German Aerospace Research Establishment.

**Landon (Lucy) Pearson:** Pearson has worked with children's groups in France, Mexico, India, and the former Soviet Union. In 1979, Pearson was vice-chairperson of the Canadian Commission for the International Year of the Child and edited its report, *For Canada's Children: National Agenda for Action*.

*(more)*

From 1984 to 1990, she was president and then chairperson of the Canadian Council on Children and Youth. In 1990, she was a founding member of the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children which she chaired until she was appointed to the Senate in 1994.

Pearson is co-founder of "Children Learning for Living," a preventative program in children's mental health operating in the Ottawa board of education.

She has written many articles on child development and is the author of *Children of Glasnost*, a book based on her study of children in the former Soviet Union.

**Paul Fournier:** Raised in Hamilton and mainly self-taught, Fournier has had a very successful career, with his works exhibited across Canada, through the United States, and in Europe. His works are also exhibited in many galleries, and are included in dozens of private and public collections.

Early in his career, Fournier specialized in finely rendered drawings of mammals, birds, mushrooms, and biblical subject matter. His earlier expressionistic landscapes gradually developed into large, romantic abstract paintings evoking music and various aspects of nature from the cosmos to the tropics and coral reefs. He has received several awards in recognition of his work.

**Walter McLean:** McLean has been tireless in his promotion of internationalism since he co-founded CUSO (then known as the Canadian University Service Overseas) in the early 1960s.

McLean spent five years in Nigeria with CUSO, including service as chaplain of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. Upon his return to Canada, he was deputy director of the Centennial International Development Program in Ottawa, and was executive director of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation.

While minister of Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo, McLean was elected to city council and, in 1979, was elected to Parliament as a Progressive Conservative. He held several cabinet positions: secretary of state (Canada), minister responsible for the status of women, and minister of state (immigration).

He served as parliamentary delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, chair of the parliamentary committee on development and human rights, and the government's special representative for Commonwealth and African affairs.

He is now Ontario's representative on the national UN's 50th anniversary committee, a member of the international affairs committee of the Canadian Council of Churches, honorary consul for the Republic of Namibia, and principal of Franklin Consulting.