

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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High school counsellors explore guidance issues at WLU

Waterloo, Ont. (May 5) — Canadian futurist Frank Ogden and Monique Bégin, co-chair of Ontario's Royal Commission on Learning, will be the headliners at a conference for high school guidance counsellors at Wilfrid Laurier University May 17 to 19.

"The Educational Highway: Counselling for the Next Century" will attract more than 250 guidance counsellors and about 60 university representatives to explore topics of mutual concern for high schools and universities. The annual conference is sponsored by the Ontario Universities Registrars' Association.

"Guidance counsellors are being challenged by increasingly complex issues as they advise high school students about education and careers," says Drew Ness, manager of liaison services at Laurier and conference co-chair. "Conference registrants will have the opportunity to grapple with problems and discover solutions together."

Ness adds that counsellors are being expected to play a more active role in students' applications for admission to university and for financial aid, to master technology like the Internet to retrieve information, and to stay abreast of trends in the job market.

A communications consultant, Ogden will address the conference at 11 a.m. on May 17 in Rm. N1001 of the science building. He is a best-selling author and syndicated columnist who frequently speaks on the implications of the electronics and information revolutions.

A former cabinet minister and now dean of the faculty of health sciences at the University of Ottawa, Bégin will discuss the report of the royal commission at 9 a.m. on

(more)

May 18 in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall. *For the Love of Learning*, released in January, made 167 recommendations to guide reform of elementary and secondary education.

Tim Kastelic, vice-president of consumer credit for the Bank of Nova Scotia, will discuss the state of student loans in Canada at 1:30 p.m. on May 18 in Rm. N1001 of the science building.

Session topics include the transition from high school to university, the results of a study on the factors influencing university choice, the Grade 14 phenomenon, the Internet as a tool for counselling, flexible school models, anti-racism guidelines for the guidance office, and career counselling for the international market.

Tupper Cawsey, a professor of business at Laurier, will speak about the trend toward "portfolio careers" at 11:15 a.m. on May 19 Rm. N1001 of the science building.

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A copy of the preliminary program accompanies this news release.