

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



**Contacts: Julia Ann Easley/ Jodi Brown**  
**University Relations**  
**(519) 884-0710, ext. 3070/ 3278**

**Aug. 4, 1995**  
**53-1995**

**Dr. Douglas McCready**  
**WLU Professor of Economics and Conference Chair**  
**(519) 884-0710, ext. 2563**

### **Conference explores change and resistance in health care systems**

**Waterloo, Ont. (Aug. 4)** — Health economists will diagnose the problems ailing Canada's health-care system and recommend some very different courses of treatment at a conference at Wilfrid Laurier University Aug. 24 to 26.

About 175 academics, policy-makers, doctors, and specialists in alternative care will attend "Change and Resistance in Health Care Systems." The conference is being organized by the Canadian Health Economics Research Association.

"Our current health-care system is not as universal and comprehensive as most people think," says Douglas McCready, a professor of economics at Laurier and chair of the conference. "We are paying more, waiting longer, and getting poorer service.

"Some people have an interest in maintaining the status quo. This conference will explore ways to overcome that resistance to reform and offer recommendations on how to provide less expensive but better service."

Seventy speakers — some from as far away as New Zealand, South Africa, and England — will address 40 topics ranging from the economic costs associated with chronic fatigue syndrome to screening for transplants, from differences in how individuals assess their own health to a comparison of physician services in Canada and the United States.

Judith Maxwell, the former chair of the Economic Council of Canada, will speak on "Sustainable Health Care for Canada" at the opening plenary on Aug. 24. Norm Wagner, who chaired the committee that oversaw health-care reform in Alberta, will speak on "Customer First in Health Care" during another plenary session on Aug. 25.

At the conclusion of the conference on Aug. 26, there will be a session offering an economic analysis of alternative health care. Panelists will include a chiropractor, a naturopath, and a representative of the Canadian Medical Association, among others.

- 30 -

*A copy of the preliminary program accompanies this news release.*