

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



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### **Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies** **receives \$360,000 grant from Department of National Defence**

The Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University will receive \$72,000 a year for five years from the Department of National Defence as part of DND's program to finance security and defence forums.

DND's commitment to fund a second five-year cycle is an "enormous" boost for the Centre, said Centre director Marc Kilgour, a professor of mathematics at Laurier.

The Centre, established in 1991, has been highly praised for its multi-disciplinary initiatives and outstanding research record. It has two legs - Canadian military history, which is Laurier history professor Terry Copp's area of expertise, and arms control and conventional arms control, which is the area of expertise of Kilgour, a Laurier mathematics professor.

The Centre is intentionally multidisciplinary, and its purpose is to foster research, teaching, and public discussion of military and strategic issues of national and international significance. It supports both basic and applied research, as well as teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition, the extensive program of LCMSDS workshops, conferences, public lectures and publications encourages informed discussion of international security and of Canada's national interests in military and strategic issues - past, present, and future.

In addition to Copp and Kilgour, the Centre has eight faculty associates from the departments of political science, history, English and geography, and four external associates.

In the past year, the Centre has:

*(more)*

- hosted two workshops on arms control and non-proliferation measures involving conventional weapons.

- produced the *Annotated Bibliography on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms*, with funding from the Verification Research Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and from the Directorate of Public Policy of the Department of National Defence. The bibliography has been distributed through the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the ASEAN regional forum, and through the Organization of American States.

- published *A Canadian's Guide to the Battlefields of Northwest Europe*, in cooperation with the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation

- published three other books: *1943: The Beginning of the End; Loyola, The Wars, In Remembrance of 'Men for Others;* and *Canada at War, 1939-1945: A Survey of the Archival Holdings of the Second World War at the National Archives of Canada.*

- completed the fourth year of publication of the journal *Canadian Military History*, which now has a paid subscription list of more than 1,000 in Canada, the U.S., the U.K., the Netherlands, and elsewhere.

- introduced the *Canadian Military History Book Review Supplement*, which features short reviews of recent publications of interest to readers of *Canadian Military History*.

The Centre maintains a close relationship with the Canadian Battle of Normandy Foundation, which co-sponsors the battlefield guides and runs the tours of European battlefields, and this year the Canadian War Museum will be contributing a section to *Canadian Military History*.

The Centre was also actively involved in the preparation of *No Price Too High*, the six-hour documentary film series on Canada's role in the Second World War that ran on the Bravo TV network last year.

The Centre also holds the Canadian World War II Air Photo Collection of approximately 300,000 air photos taken by RCAF and RAF units in Europe during 1942-1945, and the *No Price Too High* archive of written materials contributed by individuals from across Canada and around the world. The Centre has also been willed the Shephard Military Operational Research Archive of British and Commonwealth military operational research documents, which will be brought to Laurier and housed permanently in appropriate facilities.