

# Wilfrid Laurier University



## Laurier to award four honorary degrees June 6 and June 7

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WATERLOO, Ontario - Wilfrid Laurier University will honor four individuals at spring convocation ceremonies scheduled for Friday, June 6, 1997 and Saturday, June 7, 1997.

On Friday, June 6, the Faculties of Music, Social Work and the School of Business and Economics will honor Micheline Charest, chair and chief executive officer of CINAR Films Inc., and David William Strangway, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of British Columbia, with a honorary doctor of letters (LLD) degree.

On Saturday, June 7, the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary will honor Christopher Newton, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival with an LLD, and Maureen O'Neil, Director of the Institute On Governance, with an honorary doctor of literature (DLitt).

Both ceremonies are scheduled to begin at 1:15 p.m. at the Waterloo Recreation Complex. Approximately 1320 graduands will receive their degrees.

**Christopher Newton** was born in England and educated at the University of Leeds, Purdue University and the University of Illinois. A Canadian citizen, he has spent more than 30 years working for the development of Canadian professional theatre. In 1968 he founded Theatre Calgary, where he served as artistic director until 1971. For the remainder of the 1970s, he was artistic director of the Vancouver Playhouse. Mr. Newton was appointed artistic director of the Shaw Festival in 1979. At the Shaw, he established an internationally-renowned permanent acting ensemble and created the Academy, the research and development arm of the Festival. In addition to his theatre work, Mr. Newton has extensive television and film credits and is a well known radio broadcaster.

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**Maureen O'Neil** has made a number of contributions to the women's movement. A graduate of Carleton University, she held various positions in policy analysis and program development for the federal government and the government of Manitoba. In 1978 she was named Co-ordinator, Status of Women in Canada, a federally operated agency, and in 1986, Secretary General of the Canadian Human Rights Commission. In 1987, she served as Deputy Minister for the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship. In 1989 she was named President of North-South Institute, a non-profit public research centre. Currently, she is Director of the Institute on Governance.

**Micheline Charest** is chair and chief executive officer of CINAR Films Inc., a Montreal-based film production company that specializes in non-violent children's and family programming. Educated at the International London Film School, she was a producer at the National Film Board of Canada from 1973-76. She founded CINAR in 1976 with partner and husband Ronald A. Weinberg. In 1984, the company broadened its interests to include production and sales of 26 original television series. Since its inception, CINAR has produced 30 original series. CINAR productions are seen daily in more than 100 countries. In 1993, Ms. Charest was named Canadian Entrepreneur of the Year by the Association of Canadian Venture Capital Companies.

**David William Strangway** is President of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He received his bachelor, masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Toronto. Before his academic career, he worked as a geologist for a number of mining companies. He taught at universities in the United States and Canada during the 1960s and 70s, and received the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement for his work with lunar samples at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston. He was named Chair of the geology department of the University of Toronto in 1972. Mr. Strangway served as Vice President and Provost of the University of Toronto from 1980 to 1983 and was named President later that year. He was appointed President of the University of British Columbia in 1985.