

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Model First Ministers conference to explore national issues**

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**January 23, 1997**  
**4-97**

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**WATERLOO**, Ontario - University students from across Ontario and Quebec will debate national unity and the economy in a model First Ministers Conference scheduled **for Friday, January 24 through Sunday, January 26, 1997 at Wilfrid Laurier University.**

The students, from seven different universities, will represent provinces and interest groups in order to formulate resolutions, that according to conference organizers, would be significant proposals for consideration by the federal and provincial governments.

"First Ministers conferences are a valuable part of the political process," Tanya Staples, fourth year honours political science student and conference chair said. "We have tried to make this as accurate as we can in order for students to understand the important role Premiers play in working with national issues."

The conference will allow students to bring their perspectives to issues that face the nation, while getting first hand experience in the political process. In the committee sessions, the students will tackle the national unity question by examining divisional powers, and aboriginal self government. The nation's economy will be debated through an examination of provincial transfer payments and unemployment.

Member of Provincial Parliament, The Honourable Elizabeth Witmer, Ontario Minister of Labour, and Deputy Opposition House Leader, Alvin Curling, will open the conference on **Friday, January 24 at 5:00 p.m. in The Paul Martin Centre.**

An agenda for the conference is attached.

# FIRST MINISTERS CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Friday, January 24, 1997

4:00-5:00 pm	Delegation Registration	Paul Martin Centre
5:00-7:00 pm	Opening Ceremonies	Paul Martin Centre
7:00-9:00 pm	Delegation Dinner	Wilts, Student Union Building
9:00-	Entertainment	Wilf's, Student Union Building

## Saturday, January 25, 1997

7:00-9:00 am	Delegation Breakfast	Golden Griddle, 190 Weber St (shuttle available from Waterloo Inn)
9:15-12:00 am	Committee Session	National Unity: Library Board Room Economy: SUB Board Room
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:00-6:00 pm	Committee Session	National Unity: Library Board Room Economy: SUB Board Room
6:00-7:30 pm	Dinner Break	
7:30-9:00 pm	Evening Committee Session	National Unity: Library Board Room Economy: SUB Board Room
9:00-	Entertainment	The Turret, Student Union Building

## Sunday, January 26, 1997

7:00-9:00 am	Delegation Breakfast	Golden Griddle 190 Weber St (shuttle available from Waterloo Inn)
9:15-12:00 pm	Final Committee Session	National Unity: SUB Board Room Economy: Library Board Room
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:00-4:00 pm	Closing Ceremonies	Paul Martin Centre