

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Champion of arts programs will lead Laurier's new faculty**

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WATERLOO – A political scientist with a national reputation and a wealth of administrative experience has been appointed Wilfrid Laurier University's first dean of arts. Robert Campbell, a former vice-president: academic at Trent University, will become dean of Laurier's new faculty of arts on July 1, 2000.

"I am delighted that we have been able to select so distinguished a first dean of the faculty of arts," Rowland Smith, Laurier's vice-president: academic. "His wide range of experience will equip him well to work with faculty members in developing a distinct identity for the new Faculty."

Campbell, 49, was born in Montreal and began his university studies at St. Francis Xavier University. He left before graduation to work in a mining camp in northern Manitoba and later completed his undergraduate degree in political science at Trent University. He then earned a master of arts in politics and economics from the University of Toronto and a doctorate of philosophy from the London School of Economics.

Campbell's scholarship has focused on Canadian politics and economics. In the 1980s, he began looking at government agencies that would be likely candidates for privatization and turned his attention to the study of Canada Post.

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That research led to a 1994 book, *The Politics of the Post: Canada's Postal Service from Public Service to Privatization*. His current research, with funding from the Donner Foundation, has taken him to 12 countries to see how their postal systems are functioning under deregulation and international competition, and whether their experiences might be useful to Canada Post.

As a teacher, he won the Symons Teaching Award for excellence in teaching in 1994 – an award generated mainly through student input. He has also co-written three editions of *The Real Worlds of Canadian Politics*, a best-selling text of case studies on Canadian politics and policy-making.

Campbell's experience in university administration began while he was an assistant professor at Trent in 1980. He was department chair while still untenured, served as provost and dean of arts and science from 1994 to 1996, and was Trent's vice-president academic in 1996 and 1997.

Campbell is excited by the challenges that will accompany his new position at Laurier. He believes that university arts programs are a little besieged as governments try to turn universities into training programs that prepare graduates to generate wealth.

"But that's not our primary role," he explained. "We create knowledge, and arts programs are at the core of that mission. I want to ensure arts remains in the spotlight."

"We have to ensure that arts maintains and strengthens its identity over the next five years or so. I want to help the arts faculty do great things. I'm dead keen to get in there and roll up my sleeves and get working."

Laurier decided to divide its faculty of arts and science into two separate faculties last in 1998. The partition, which takes effect in January 2000, will allow members of the new faculties to more closely focus on teaching and research in their respective areas. Don Baker, acting dean of the faculty of arts and science, will continue as acting dean of the new faculty of arts until Campbell's July arrival.