

Wilfrid Laurier University



SuperBuild will fund much-needed campus renewal projects

More space and library resources needed to meet demands of growing student body

For Immediate Release

February 24, 2000

13-00

**Contact: Dr. Robert G. Rosehart
President & Vice-Chancellor
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2250**

**or Michael Strickland
Media Relations Officer
(519) 884-0710 ext. 3070**

WATERLOO – Funding announced today under the Ontario government's SuperBuild Growth Fund will help Wilfrid Laurier University address two key needs of a growing student body. The Northwest Campus Renewal and Expansion Project will support much-needed renewal of Laurier's library and provide additional space for one of the country's leading schools of business and economics.

The \$12.9-million project consists of an addition to the Frank Peters Building, home of The Laurier School of Business and Economics, linking the building to both the library and the Arts Building. The addition will house The Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies. The project will also remove six small classrooms from the library and replace them with 21 optimal-sized classrooms in the Peters and Arts buildings, provide for renewal of computer laboratories, and allow the library to better meet information needs of contemporary students.

"Laurier would like to thank Ontario premier Mike Harris and finance minister Ernie Eves for their support of this project," said Bob Rosehart, president and vice-chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University. "And we would like to commend Dianne Cunningham, minister of training, colleges and universities, for recognizing and addressing the need for additional post-secondary spaces. This investment in Ontario's future will allow us to more adequately meet the needs of students as they grow into tomorrow's leaders."

– more –

While Ontario universities are now developing strategies for a predicted increase in demand for post-secondary education, Laurier has already seen its enrolments grow from 5800 full-time students in 1997 to 7000 in 1999. The number of students applying for admission in recent years suggests Laurier can expect demand for its programs to continue to grow. The number of applications submitted by Ontario high-school students for this coming September has so far grown by 12.3 per cent when compared to last year, giving Laurier the greatest increase of any university in the province.