

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Olympic roundtable initiates dialogue on the future of the Games

Pound, Tewksbury and others to comment on issues ranging from site selection to drug use

For Immediate Release

**April 01, 1999
23-99**

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WATERLOO – Canada's top Olympic official will join some of the country's leading medal winners and Olympic experts for a discussion on the future of the Games – including such topics as site-selection and drug use – organized by Wilfrid Laurier University.

Olympic Roundtable: The IOC, Olympic Leadership and Reform will bring together Olympic luminaries for a constructive dialogue on issues pertaining to The International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Olympic Movement and the future of the Games. The program includes IOC vice-president Dick Pound; Olympians Mark Tewksbury (swimming), Nathalie Lambert (short-track speed skating), Curt Harnett (cycling) and Charmaine Crooks (track and field); academics Bruce Kidd (University of Toronto) and Robert Barney (University of Western Ontario); and sports journalists Stephen Brunt (*The Globe and Mail*) and Mary Ormsby (*The Toronto Star*).

"Our hope is that these experts – each representing key segments of the Olympic Movement – will offer insights that can form the basis of needed reforms," explains Rowland Smith, Laurier's vice-president: academic. "We hope to provide an opportunity and a forum to advance the discussion on issues ranging from site selection to how athletes can have more influence on Olympic decision making."

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The one-day program is divided into three sessions, all held at the **Waterloo Inn** on **Tuesday, April 06, 1999**. The first runs from 1:00 to 3:45 p.m. Brunt, Lambert, Crooks and Tewksbury will outline their views on the future of the Games and take questions from the audience.

The participants have been encouraged to speak about what is most important to them and are free to address some or all of the current issues. Brunt of *The Globe and Mail* is expected to lay the foundation for the rest of the day by discussing public perception of the Olympic Movement. Roundtable organizers expect Crooks and Tewksbury will offer several differing views since one is a member of the IOC athletes' council and the other has resigned all his Olympic positions.

Members of the media are invited to meet with the participants during a reception from 3:45 to 4:15. Seven of the nine participants (excluding Brunt and Harnett) will then take part in the second session, a roundtable discussion on all topics from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m.

The third session invites Pound and Harnett to share their views on the relevant topics during the keynote addresses from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Entry to all sessions is free, though space is limited and attendees will need a separate ticket for each session. The public can visit Laurier's Robert Langen Gallery to pick up tickets or can call (519) 884-0710 ext. 2714 for ticket information.