

# NEWS RELEASE

**Wilfrid Laurier  
University**



## **Laurier course brings more than \$7000 in aid to third world Cuba**

*Canadian students travelling to Cuba to study use initiative to help people in need*

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WATERLOO – Eighteen students from across Canada will take more than \$7000 in medical supplies, clothing, school supplies and toys for young children to Cuba on May 2 in an academic venture headed by Wilfrid Laurier University.

The three-week trip will allow the students to gain course credits for the programs in development and international studies offered at Simon Fraser University, the University of New Brunswick, the University of Toronto, McGill University, the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. Each student is spending approximately \$2,500 on travel costs and tuition fees for the trip, to learn about Cuban development and to help those in need.

"We just thought that we should take whatever items possible to facilitate, in some small way, the life of the Cubans," says professor John Peters, the man who started the project.

Amongst the goods brought to Cuba, the medical supplies will include mostly asthma medication and antibodies. They will be delivered to the pediatrics department of the Havana Hospital.

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The \$5,000 in medical supplies has come from MAP International, a company that organizes medical supplies to be sent to countries such as Cuba. Local physician Dr George B. Miller has also been able to get medicine directly from the pharmaceutical company Novopharm free of charge.

Whilst in Cuba, the students will attend a variety of lectures on the culture, history, economics and development in Cuba. The students will visit sites such as hospitals, schools, museums, childcare facilities, tourism ventures, farms, malls, a correctional institution, a women's cooperative and a cigar factory in three main areas (Havana, Pinar Del Rio and Matanzas).

Laurier hopes that this trip will become an annual venture for students. It will continue through the development and international studies programs.