

NEWS RELEASE

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Chancellor's Summit to review limits and impact of corporate ethics CEOs, journalists join John E. Cleghorn for debate on range of business-social issues

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WATERLOO – Stock manipulation, insider trading, e-mail surveillance, same-sex benefits, bribery of foreign officials – some of Canada's leading chief executives and business journalists will debate these and other ethical issues dominating today's business news when John E. Cleghorn, chairman and CEO of the Royal Bank, and chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University, convenes Laurier's annual Chancellor's Summit later this month.

The University is announcing today that the topic for this year's summit is *Redefining Corporate Responsibility for the New Economy*. The 18 business leaders and journalists who have so far agreed to participate will gather on Laurier's campus in Waterloo to share their views on the limits and impact of social responsibility from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on September 28.

"You quite literally can't pick up a newspaper without reading something about ethical issues confronting corporations," explains Scott Carson, dean of The Laurier School of Business and Economics. "The real question is: How much responsibility does a company have to its employees, to its customers and to the communities in which it operates – especially when meeting those responsibilities will impact the shareholders' bottom line."

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Carson, who will moderate the discussion, will ask the panelists to address five key areas:

Corporate Responsibility: Do corporations have an obligation to behave in a socially responsible manner? How far do their social responsibilities extend – to their employees, the communities in which they operate, or the countries in which they operate? What are some of the most important social issues facing corporations today?

The New Economy: What new issues have risen from the trend towards globalization? Are new technologies challenging organizations to rethink how organizations deal with personal information – both an employee's and a customer's? How is your organization addressing new demands – say for same-sex benefits – that result from a changing social dynamic?

Leadership for Change: What role should a CEO play in ensuring that an organization behaves in a socially responsible fashion? Are senior executives providing the required level of leadership? What more could they be doing?

The Role of Education: What role, if any, should universities adopt to ensure that the next generation of leaders will operate in a socially responsible manner? Should we be doing anything to encourage social responsibility among current business professionals?

The Possibility of Ethical Conduct in Business: Is ethical conduct really possible given that taking the 'high road' can put one's company at a competitive disadvantage? Can we expect industries to self-regulate or should government regulate social responsibility?

Following the moderated discussion, Carson will invite questions from a small student panel representing various programs across the University. He will then invite questions from the audience.

The Chancellor's Summit, hosted annually by Wilfrid Laurier University, provides a national forum for the exchange of ideas on topics related to Canadian economic performance in a global marketplace.