

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



## Canada's largest student job fair attracts more employers than ever

*Over 200 organizations registered and nearly 4000 students and alumni expected this year*

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WATERLOO - Canada's largest student job fair is getting even bigger. More than 200 organizations from across Canada and the United States will attend the Winter 2001 University/College Job Fair at Bingemans Conference Centre on February 6, which serves students and alumni from Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Waterloo, Conestoga College and the University of Guelph.

Sponsored by Partnerships for Employment, the fair features organizations from virtually every sector - from natural resources to high tech, fire and police services to insurance and finance, communications to social work. Space at the job fair was booked by mid-January, with several companies on a waiting list, and all the organizations in attendance expect to fill positions within the next six months.

"There's been a lot of talk lately about a downturn in the economy, but judging by the number of employers who are looking to hire right now, it doesn't seem to be affecting us," says Jan Basso, director of Co-operative Education & Career Services at Laurier. "The quality of the students and alumni from the schools in this region is what keeps organizations coming back to this event year after year."

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- Winter 2001 Job Fair / 2 -

Shuttle buses will run from all four post-secondary institutions during the fair's hours of operation, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and between 3500 and 4000 students and alumni are expected. Jobs available include full-time, summer, contract, co-op and part-time positions.

Some of the companies participating are: ACNielsen Company of Canada, Algoma Steel Inc., Bell Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, City of Toronto Fire Services, Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region, General Motors of Canada, IBM Canada, Kodak, McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Outland Reforestation, Research in Motion, Rogers, Spicer/PrinterOn and York Regional Police.

First held in 1994, the University/College Job Fair featured 50 employer organizations. Since that time, the number of organizations participating has more than quadrupled and the number of students and alumni attending has doubled. Laurier, Waterloo, Conestoga and Guelph were the first four post-secondary institutions in Canada to come together and offer one job fair. While a few combined job fairs are now held in other parts of the country, this one remains the largest.