

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Robert A. Milton to deliver first address of new TD speaker series *Air Canada president and CEO to discuss global airline industry after September 11*

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WATERLOO – The head of Canada’s major airline will deliver the first address in a new speakers series organized by the school of business and economics at Wilfrid Laurier University. Robert A. Milton, president and chief executive officer of Air Canada, will discuss *The Global Airline Industry in the Wake of September 11th, 2001*.

Milton will deliver the first address of the TD Bank Financial Group Speaker Series at 4 p.m. on January 15 in Laurier’s Theatre Auditorium. The series is designed to present interesting and relevant perspectives on issues affecting business and the economy.

“Laurier is very pleased that Mr. Milton will share his views on the impact of the events of September 11,” says Scott Carson, dean of the Laurier school of business and economics (SBE). “The TD speaker series was designed to offer exactly this sort of relevant perspective on important issues of the day.”

The TD Bank Financial Group has committed to support the series for two years, allowing Laurier to bring two prominent Canadian business leaders to campus each year. TD is committed to its regional customer base and wants to provide them with access to speakers of Milton’s calibre. SBE is now selecting the next speaker and hopes to hold the second address in the fall.

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In his talk, Milton will share his perspective on changes to the airline industry that have followed September’s terrorist attacks, drawing on his airline experience that includes equal time on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

After completing his bachelor of science degree in industrial management from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1983, Milton founded and led an air carrier that provided overnight package service. He later sold the carrier’s operations and co-founded Air Eagle Holdings Inc., which provided aviation-related consulting services from Atlanta, Georgia.

He initially joined Air Canada in 1992 as a consultant, to assist in the rationalization of the airline’s courier network. He subsequently held a variety of senior management positions in scheduling and product management before being appointed senior vice-president of marketing and in-flight services in 1995, with additional responsibilities for advertising, product design and brand management, in-flight service and cargo operations.

A year later, Milton was appointed executive vice-president and chief operating officer, responsible for the safe and profitable management of the airline’s worldwide operations.

In 1999, Milton received the *Canada’s Top 40 Under 40 Award* honouring exceptional vision, leadership and innovation among Canada’s young executives.