

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Canada's largest student job fair sees an increase in employers** *More organizations register for student/alumni event, expecting to hire within six months*

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WATERLOO – An increase in the number of employers expected at Canada's largest job fair is good news for local college and university graduates – and for job seekers in general. Organizers of the Winter 2003 University/College Job Fair have revised their estimated number of participating organizations to reflect an increase in actual numbers.

Organizers originally thought 100 employers would attend the job fair for students and alumni of Conestoga College and the universities of Guelph, Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier. The estimate reflected a decline in recruiting experienced by all institutions in 2002. Early numbers this year were higher than expected and organizers raised the estimate to 120. So far, 118 employers have registered for the February 5 event at RIM Park.

“This is good news for students and alumni who are currently seeking work – and for job seekers in general,” says Jan Basso, director of co-operative education and career services at Laurier. “Since the organizations that attend must be planning to hire within the next six months, we are very hopeful that the increase is reflective of an improving job market for 2003.”

Sponsored by Partnerships for Employment (representing the area's four post-secondary institutions), the fair features organizations from virtually every sector – from agribusiness to financial services, manufacturing to police services, government to information technology. Jobs available include full-time, part-time, co-op, summer and contract positions.

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Some of the organizations participating are: ACNielsen Company of Canada, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, DALSA Corporation, Deloitte and Touche, Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region, Goodlife Fitness, ING Canada, Ontario Provincial Police, RBC Financial Group and Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada.

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. Approximately 4,000 students and alumni are expected.

First held in 1994, the University/College Job Fair featured 50 employer organizations. The number of organizations participating has since reached a high of 209 in 2001 and the number of students and alumni attending has doubled.

Conestoga, Guelph, Laurier and Waterloo were the first four post-secondary institutions in Canada to jointly offer an annual job fair. While a few combined job fairs are now held in other parts of the country, this one remains the largest.