

NEWS RELEASE



Wilfrid Laurier
University



CMA Canada, Laurier open new centre in management accounting for small and medium-sized businesses

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WATERLOO – CMA Canada and the school of business and economics (SBE) at Wilfrid Laurier University will host a ceremony tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. to commemorate the official opening of a new centre of excellence.

The new CMA Canada Centre of Excellence in Management Accounting for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises is the only facility of its kind in Canada. The centre is part of an agreement between CMA Canada and Laurier that will expand the boundaries of management accounting and enhance the competitiveness of Canadian small businesses.

The Honourable Jane Stewart, minister of Human Resources Development Canada and MP for Brant, will attend the opening ceremony and address assembled guests on behalf of the federal government. The minister recognizes the value of the CMA Canada centre of excellence in supporting government initiatives to encourage life-long learning and skills development in the Canadian workplace.

Operating within the Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship at Laurier, the centre of excellence will facilitate interaction between entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), management accountants and university faculty. The centre will support conferences, workshops, speaker series and publications in management accounting with special reference to entrepreneurial and SMEs ventures.

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“We envision a centre of excellence where the very best theory and practices are explored, developed and shared with businesses from across the country,” said SBE dean Scott Carson. “This partnership, involving CMA Canada and the Laurier school of business and economics, offers a powerful opportunity to link the centre with one of the country’s most dynamic business organizations.”

Robert Dye, president and CEO of CMA Canada, agrees.

“This partnership will enable our two organizations to significantly expand the body of knowledge on management accounting techniques, best practices and skills development for entrepreneurs and small business managers,” said Dye. “It ensures our members have access to leading-edge accreditation programs, increases our research capacity in the area of small and medium-sized businesses, and strengthens links between CMA Canada, Laurier and the Kitchener-Waterloo business community.”

The agreement governing the centre covers a 10-year period. It calls for the creation of an advisory council for the centre, with one-half of the members appointed by CMA Canada and the other half appointed by the Schlegel centre. The council will develop an annual work plan for the centre, monitor progress and ensure delivery of specific items.

With more than 40,000 members around the world, CMA Canada grants a professional designation in management accounting and is responsible for the setting of standards, accreditation and the continuing professional development of certified management accountants. A CMA is a strategic financial management professional who integrates accounting expertise with advanced management skills to achieve business success. CMAs work as senior management professionals in organizations of all sizes, applying best management practices in strategic planning, finance, operations, sales and marketing, information technology, and human resources.

With more than 3,000 students enrolled in its programs and 100 full-time faculty, Laurier’s SBE, with campuses in Waterloo and Toronto, Ontario, is one of Canada’s largest and most innovative business schools. The Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship was established in 2002 to link students and faculty with the entrepreneurial business community. Visit our Web site at www.wlu.ca/sbe for further information.