

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier hosts symposium on managing Canada's water resources

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WATERLOO – Leading water experts will gather to share information on key issues related to the management of Canada's water resources. During a symposium at Wilfrid Laurier University on April 15 and 16, they will discuss a range of topics that include water-related science, environmental conservation, climate variability and new interdisciplinary approaches to environmental research – all essential for effective management of Canada's natural resources.

Participants will include leading North American researchers in the field. The symposium will focus on results from recent studies of past and present trends in hydrology and ecology in the Peace-Athabasca and Slave River deltas, which help predict future conditions.

The research provides the basis for the development of water management strategies for industries like BC Hydro, in light of increasing demand on water supplies and future climate change. Resource managers, provincial and territorial governments, private industry and the scientific community could apply the findings to ecosystem management plans for similar regions.

“The ultimate goal of this symposium is to take interdisciplinary research and apply it to improving water management strategies,” said Brent Wolfe, symposium organizer and assistant professor of geography at Laurier. “Such strategies are imperative for responsible stewardship of the environment, including wildlife and natural resources.”

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Wolfe, who is also the Northern Research Chair in Present and Past Hydro-ecology of the Mackenzie Basin Deltas for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada, added that “new collaborative initiatives among industry, government and academia are expected to develop as an outcome of the symposium.”

Glen MacDonald, professor and chair of geography at the University of California, Los Angeles, will deliver the keynote address, entitled *Long-term Hydrological Variability of Northern Rivers and the Global Ocean-atmosphere System*. His interests cover a wide variety of environmental topics relevant to the conference. MacDonald will share insights that are unique to his international experience in hydrological research.

Other speakers include representatives from BC Hydro, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the National Water Research Institute and Canada’s Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Undergraduate and graduate students from the universities of Wilfrid Laurier, Winnipeg and Waterloo will also present their research.

Sponsors for the conference include Laurier’s Cold Regions Research Centre, BC Hydro and NSERC.