

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Lawyer and adjudicator named new chair of board of governors** *Beverly Harris to help implement strategic plan leading up to centennial anniversary*

**For Immediate Release**

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WATERLOO – A lawyer with a decade’s experience in adjudication and university governance has been appointed chair of the board of governors at Wilfrid Laurier University. Beverly Harris will begin her first one-year term by chairing her first board meeting on October 19.

“We are extremely pleased that Ms. Harris is assuming this important role at such a crucial point in Laurier’s continuing development,” said Robert G. Rosehart, president and vice-chancellor of the university. “Her long experience in government and with Laurier will serve the university well as we approach our centennial and prepare for the next century.”

Harris assumes the position in time to help steer the university through the implementation of a new strategic plan. Key components of the challenge will be to ensure that Laurier maintains its student focus and quality of education, while it grows into a more comprehensive university with more research and international links.

“I am greatly looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead, particularly at this crucial time in the university’s 90-year-plus history,” said Harris. “My eight years on the board have shown me that Laurier is a remarkable institution and I look forward to playing a role in helping it continue its mission of teaching and research.”

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Harris completed eight years as a Laurier governor in June 2004 and her tenure included three years as vice-chair. In the last year, she continued to chair the board's pension committee.

Harris also brings extensive experience as member and chair of the Health Services Appeal and Review Board. A quasi-judicial adjudicative tribunal, the board hears appeals concerning health services, including appeals to decisions of the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, local medical officers of health and local community care access centres.

Harris earned a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Waterloo in 1979 and a bachelor of laws from the University of Ottawa in 1982. She was called to the Ontario Bar in 1984 and continues as a member in good standing. From 1982 to 1990, she practiced law at Cassels, Brock in Toronto, where she specialized in administrative law.

She lives in Kitchener and has contributed much of her time to local volunteer efforts. She is past president of Kitchener-Waterloo Counselling Services, a not-for-profit social service agency, and a past member of the board of the Kitchener YWCA.

Harris is married to Laurier alumnus Tim Seegmiller, who is a partner in a third-generation family business. They have three teenaged children: Lindsay, Geoffrey and Nora.

Founded in 1911, Laurier is now implementing the strategic plan that will guide the university until its centennial in 2011.