

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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David Crombie to propose An Urban Agenda for a New Century

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Contact: Dr. Kevin Hanna
Associate Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2211

WATERLOO – Former mayor of Toronto and federal cabinet minister David Crombie will share his views on the challenges facing Canadian cities during a lecture at Wilfrid Laurier University. Crombie will deliver a talk, entitled *An Urban Agenda for a New Century*, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29, in room 102 of the Bricker academic building.

This talk will draw on Crombie’s unique experience as head of Canada’s largest city and his career in government and academe. He is founding chair of Toronto’s Waterfront Regeneration Trust as well as president and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute think tank.

“Most Canadians live in cities. After Singapore, we are probably the most urbanized people in the world,” said Kevin Hanna, associate professor of geography and environmental studies. “But our cities are stressed and fraying; certainly K-W provides good examples of urban problems. There are few people as qualified as David Crombie to comment on the need for a new urban agenda for Canada’s cities.”

Crombie was elected to Toronto’s city council in 1970 and was mayor from 1972 to 1978. He was arguably the city’s most popular mayor, credited by some with ushering in a reform era inspired by thinkers such as Jane Jacobs. Under his leadership, city council developed plans to better manage development, promoted and advanced public transit, opposed the construction of certain highways and sought increased community participation.

Crombie was a member of parliament from 1978 to 1988. He held three cabinet posts in that time, serving as Minister of Health and Welfare, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Secretary of State.

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Before entering political life, Crombie taught about urban issues at Ryerson University and later served as Ryerson's chancellor. He holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Toronto for his contributions to Toronto and from the University of Waterloo for his contributions to the quality of life of Canadians and to Canada's environment.

He is president of David Crombie & Associates Inc. He serves as chair of the Advisory Council for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and is a director of the Centre for the Financial Services OmbudsNetwork (CFSON). He was recently appointed chair of Ontario Place and made an officer of the Order of Canada.