

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Former deputy secretary-general of the UN to speak at Laurier

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WATERLOO — Louise Fréchette, the highest-ranking Canadian to ever serve at the United Nations, will speak at Wilfrid Laurier University on Monday, Feb. 4, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

Fréchette was appointed the first-ever deputy secretary-general of the UN in 1998 by then secretary-general Kofi Annan. The position, which she held for eight years, was the culmination of a distinguished career as a Canadian diplomat and public servant. Fréchette is currently a distinguished fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation in Waterloo.

“Louise Fréchette is an accomplished diplomat whose contributions to both Canada and the world are widely recognized,” said David Docherty, Laurier’s dean of arts. “We are very pleased to have her come to Laurier to share her views and experiences on issues of global governance and Canadian foreign affairs.”

Before joining the UN, Fréchette was deputy minister of Canada’s Department of National Defence from 1995 to 1998. Prior to that, she was the associate deputy minister of the Department of Finance. Originally a Foreign Service officer, she served as Canada’s permanent representative to the UN from 1992 to 1995. In 1998 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Fréchette, who joined the Centre for International Governance Innovation as a distinguished fellow in April 2006, has extensive international expertise. In 2005, Forbes magazine named her one of the 100 most powerful women in the world.

The Feb. 4 event at Laurier will be a conversation-style discussion moderated by Patricia Goff, an associate professor of political science at Laurier and the incoming executive director of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS).

The event is part of the Laurier Lecture series, which invites noted speakers to share their diverse interests and expertise with the Laurier community. The lecture is open to the public and admission is free. Registration is not necessary but seating is limited.