

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



Laurier athletics director to head Canadian university team in China

Peter Baxter named 'chef de mission' for the 2009 Winter Universiade games

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WATERLOO — Wilfrid Laurier University's director of athletics and recreation, Peter Baxter, has been named *chef de mission* of the Canadian university student-athlete team that will participate in the 24th Winter Universiade games in Harbin, China in January 2009.

Canadian Interuniversity Sport, as the Canadian representative of Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU), announced Baxter's appointment this week.

"Peter will be an exceptional *chef de mission*. He has experience and leadership qualities that are key to the position. I'm confident Peter will be an outstanding ambassador for Canada and will greatly enhance the student-athlete experience," said Joe Morissette, CIS Sport and International Programs Services.

The role of the *chef de mission* is to provide overall leadership for the Canadian contingent before, during and after the team's participation in the games.

Baxter has been head of Wilfrid Laurier's athletics and recreation department since 1998. He previously occupied a similar position at the University of Toronto in Mississauga (1991-98). In his 10 years at Laurier, Baxter has been a part of many interuniversity and recreation successes, including 20 of the school's 50 provincial (OUA) championships and six of the school's 10 national (CIS) championships. He has led the renewal of all three of Laurier's athletic facilities, which have seen a significant growth in recreation, intramural and fitness activities.

Baxter's international experience includes serving as a team manager with the Canadian national canoe team, founding the only Olympic weightlifting centre in the Toronto area, and hosting the 1995 Pan American weightlifting championships. In 2003, Wilfrid Laurier's women's hockey team hosted

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Team China for an exhibition game, and in 2007 Baxter helped secure an exchange program with Nanjing University in China for Laurier coaches and student athletes.

Also competing at the 2009 Winter Universiade will be Laurier's women's and men's curling teams. The two teams earned the right to represent Canada by winning the inaugural CIS championships this past March.

"It's an honour to be a part of the team that will support our Canadian university student athletes at this Universiade," said Baxter. "It's even more special to be with our own Wilfrid Laurier athletes as they compete representing Canada in addition to the Golden Hawk program."

The Universiade is a cultural and sports event that takes place every two years in different countries. The 2009 Winter Universiade in China will feature over 50 sporting events, encompassed in the following 12 sports: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, ski jumping, Nordic combined, biathlon, freestyle skiing, ice hockey, short-track speed skating, long-track speed skating, figure skating, snowboard and curling.

The official website for the 2009 Winter Universiade is: www.harbin2009.org