

**For Immediate Release
Dec. 22, 2008 | 115-08**

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RIM's Jim Balsillie named Laurier's 21st Outstanding Business Leader

WATERLOO – Jim Balsillie, co-chief executive officer of Waterloo-based Research In Motion (RIM), has been named Laurier's Outstanding Business Leader for 2008. The award will be presented at a private luncheon on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at the Waterloo Inn.

Balsillie was selected for this prestigious award in recognition of his significant achievements in the global mobile communications industry including the unparalleled success of BlackBerry®, as well as his far-reaching community involvement.

"We were very impressed by Jim's leadership and how he has helped propel the growth of BlackBerry globally. In addition, his dedication to the Waterloo community and the ongoing support he gives to Wilfrid Laurier University make him a true champion of the school," said Ginny Dybenko, Laurier's dean of business and economics.

In 2002, Balsillie founded The Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), a global research institute focused on transnational policy issues. In 2007, Balsillie donated \$50 million to create The Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo as well as to advance the ongoing research at CIGI. The new Balsillie School houses Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Waterloo graduate programs in Global Governance and International Public Policy.

In addition to his commitment to CIGI, Balsillie is a founding donor of the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and a patron of the Grand River Hospital, where his leadership gift helped establish a new cancer care centre. He also helped to establish the Waterloo Regional Children's Museum, a unique facility where art and technology meet to stimulate creativity and motivate learning.

The Laurier Outstanding Business Leader Award has been presented annually since 1987 by the Laurier School of Business & Economics. Recipients are chosen for their outstanding leadership and management qualities by a selection committee made up of industry, academia and community leaders. Award winners are business leaders who exemplify the qualities and characteristics of leadership and management excellence that the school seeks to develop in its students. A list of past recipients can be viewed at http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=31&p=440.