

**For Immediate Release
January 7, 2009 | 01-09**

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Laurier launches Centre for Community Research, Learning and Action

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will open its new Centre for Community Research, Learning and Action (CCRLA) on January 16 at 2:30 p.m. The opening event will feature keynote speaker and community-based research pioneer, Dr. Budd Hall.

Operating within Laurier’s science faculty as part of its community psychology program, CCRLA will partner with organizations and communities on research projects to advance community health and social justice.

“We’re moving from rhetoric to practice, and students will learn participatory research, analysis and policy development in the process,” said Dr. Terry Mitchell, associate psychology professor and director of CCRLA.

Through a community service-learning component of CCRLA, Laurier doctoral students are working with Opportunities Waterloo Region on a long-term community initiative, the Poverty Policy Project. The joint project examines poverty as a systemic barrier to social inclusion in Waterloo Region. Students will work collaboratively with people living in poverty to develop policy recommendations that will be shared with all levels of government.

Through such community-university research projects, CCRLA will allow students to experience and reflect upon what it is like to work within a community. They will also learn how to translate knowledge from academia into a form that is relevant and useful for a community organization.

Hall, the director of the University of Victoria’s Office of Community-Based Research, is internationally known for his work developing the field of participatory, community-based research. He will deliver his keynote address, *Communities, Knowledge and Structural Transformation*, at CCRLA’s opening on January 16 at 2:30 in room N1002 of Laurier’s Science building.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. To register for the event, contact a.buettgen@gmail.com.