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Prime Minister's Office invites Laurier expert to discuss student entrepreneurship

WATERLOO – Steve Farlow, executive director of Wilfrid Laurier University's Schlegel Centre for Entrepreneurship, joined Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a roundtable discussion on March 18 about the role of student entrepreneurship in the future of the Canadian economy.

The Prime Minister's Office invited Farlow, who is a Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) board member and mentor, to share his thoughts on the value of mentoring entrepreneurs and the role of academia in championing and cultivating youth entrepreneurship. The event also included Minister Diane Ablonczy, CYBF chairman John Risley and various entrepreneurs.

In a news conference following the roundtable, the Prime minister spoke about the government's Economic Action Plan, which included a \$10-million grant to the CYBF to create start-up businesses, jobs and revenue.

"The hope for Canada's economy rests on a three-legged stool made up of science, technology, and the *management* of that innovation," said Ginny Dybenko, Laurier's dean of business and economics. "We are very pleased that organizations like the CYBF and the government of Canada recognize and support the business skills necessary to enable youth entrepreneurship."

"The Laurier MBA in innovation and entrepreneurship is a great example of a university program that enables students to create real businesses within the curriculum," said Farlow. "Applicants are pouring into the program and our students are producing new ventures that will contribute to the Canadian economy. This CYBF funding is critical to our young entrepreneurs and the programs that support them."

The Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) is a national charity dedicated to growing our nation's economy one young entrepreneur at a time. They look at character not collateral, when providing youth, age 18-34, with pre-launch coaching, business resources, start-up financing and mentoring, to help them launch and sustain a successful entrepreneurial business.

www.cybf.ca.