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Speaker to discuss UN initiative and water-protection issues in Western Canada

WATERLOO – Robert Sandford, chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative of the United Nations International Water for Life Decade, will visit Wilfrid Laurier University Friday, Dec. 4, to speak about water-protection issues in Western Canada.

Sandford will deliver a talk titled, *Corralling the Water Hole: Resolving Disputes and Avoiding Conflict Over Water Resources in the Canadian West*. The event will start at 11 a.m. in Room P1019 in the Peters Building on Laurier's Waterloo campus.

"Canada's water resources are increasingly vulnerable to quantity and quality problems. Bob Sandford plays the crucial role of translating scientific research outcomes to policy-makers so that appropriate water management policies can be adopted in a timely way," said Laurier professor Bill Quinton, Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Hydrology.

In addition to his work with the UN's International Water for Life Decade, Sandford is a member of a number of national and international water-related organizations, including the advisory committee for the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy. He is also the director of the Western Watersheds Climate Research Collaborative, a not-for-profit research institute that promotes understanding of climate impacts on river systems originating in the Rocky Mountains.

The UN International Water for Life Decade is an initiative to advance long-term water quality and availability issues around the world. In December 2003, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the years 2005 to 2015 as the "International Decade for Action for Water for Life." The primary goal is to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015.

Wilfrid Laurier University has a unique expertise in water science and related policy issues through the Laurier Institute for Water Science and the Cold Regions Research Centre, and numerous researchers affiliated with both centres.