

## NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release  
Feb. 4, 2011 | 018-11

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### **Faculty of Social Work expands Aboriginal programming to New Brunswick**

WATERLOO – Starting in fall 2011, Laurier’s Faculty of Social Work Department plans to offer a part-time Master of Social Work Aboriginal Field of Study (MSW-AFS) program to students in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Laurier has agreed to create a partnership program with the Mi’kmaq/Maliseet Association of Social Service Professionals (MMASSP). The MMASSP contacted the university about setting up a program in N.B. after hearing Malcolm Saulis, coordinator of Laurier’s AFS program and associate professor in the Faculty of Social Work, speak at a conference about the program.

“The people at MMASSP feel comfortable partnering with Laurier because of our wholistic healing approach and solid foundation in an indigenous world view as they are native organizations and people,” said Saulis. “They feel like the legitimacy of the program and credibility of the program – and the fact it is accredited in Ontario – are all very positive things.”

The N.B. program will mirror the one offered in Ontario, including two part-time programs offered in partnership with First Nations Technical Institute and Seven Generations Technical Institute, and will be delivered by Laurier instructors. The key foundation of the program is the use of indigenous knowledge and process and the use of elders-in-residence, said Saulis.

Prospective students can apply through the Ontario Universities' Application Centre. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2011.

Laurier’s Faculty of Social Work offers a full-time and part-time MSW-AFS program in Ontario. It also offers a new part-time PhD program. For more information, please visit [www.wlu.ca/graduatestudies/admissions](http://www.wlu.ca/graduatestudies/admissions).

Laurier’s Waterloo campus recently unveiled a new Aboriginal Student Centre, offering students cultural programming and links to the local Aboriginal community as well as academic support. Laurier’s Brantford campus also has an Aboriginal Resource Centre available to Aboriginal students for socialization, study groups, and Native Student Association meetings.

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