

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Homeless activist and Toronto street nurse Cathy Crowe to visit Laurier Brantford**

BRANTFORD – Homeless activist and co-founder of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee (TRDC) Cathy Crowe will visit Laurier Brantford as the third speaker in Laurier's "Lives of Leadership and Purpose" centennial speaker series. Crowe's lecture, "Dying for a Home, Fighting for the Right to a Home," takes place Wednesday, Mar. 15, 2:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, 95 Darling St.

Crowe will share her experiences working as an activist for the homeless for over two decades. In 1998, she co-founded the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, which declared homelessness a national disaster. She also serves as the committee's voluntary executive director. The TRDC campaigns for all three levels of government to commit an additional one per cent of their budgets to affordable housing.

"Cathy Crowe is an example of what Laurier means by a life of leadership and purpose," said Andrew Robinson, associate professor of Human Rights and Human Diversity at Laurier Brantford. "Her singular passion for raising awareness and campaigning for support for homeless initiatives is making a difference in our society."

Crowe has received a number of honours, including an International Human Rights Award from the International Centre for Nursing Ethics, and the Atkinson Charitable Foundation's Economic Justice Award. In addition, she has received honorary degrees from the University of Victoria, McMaster University, University of Ottawa and York University.

Upon receiving the award from the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, Crowe said: "I want to inspire and engage Canadians from all walks of life, to empathize and respond to the injustice of homelessness in their community and motivate them to become involved in calling for the solution – a national housing program."

Laurier Brantford's "Lives of Leadership and Purpose" speaker series features speakers with experience promoting human rights, social justice, and peace – topics that support the civic engagement, justice and internationalization elements of Laurier's academic plan. Previous speakers include Debi Goodwin, author of *Citizens of Nowhere*, and Anas Aremeyaw Anas, an undercover Ghanaian journalist who produced award-winning undercover documentaries on human trafficking, corruption in an African orphanage and human rights abuses of patients in a mental health institution.

The speaker series celebrates Laurier's centennial by drawing connections between Laurier's 100 years inspiring lives of leadership and purpose, the speakers' careers as examples of this philosophy and the strength of Laurier Brantford's Human Rights & Human Diversity, Journalism and Criminology programs as examples of Laurier's ongoing commitment to its vision.

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The event is co-hosted by the Journalism Guild, the Human Rights & Human Diversity program, and the W. Ross MacDonald Memorial Foundation. The lecture is free and open to the public. For further information, contact: Dr. Andrew Robinson at [arobinson@wlu.ca](mailto:arobinson@wlu.ca) or 519-756-8228 ext. 5743.

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