

NEWS RELEASE



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Writer-in-residence Joseph Boyden to visit Laurier's Waterloo campus in March

WATERLOO – Joseph Boyden, the award-winning author of *Through Black Spruce* and *Three Day Road*, will host a public lecture and meet with faculty, staff and students when he visits Laurier's Waterloo campus March 6 to 8 as Laurier's writer-in-residence.

During the three-day visit, Boyden will meet with Aboriginal students, as well as faculty, staff and students within the Laurier community who are part of reading groups being organized ahead of his visit. Boyden's public lecture, titled "Write From Wrong: Giving Voice To A People," will be held March 8 at 7 p.m. in the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall at Laurier's Waterloo campus, and will focus on reimagining the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

"We are thrilled that Joseph Boyden has shown such enthusiasm for engaging with Laurier and our external communities," said Deborah MacLatchy, Laurier's vice-president: academic and provost. "His interest in taking part in meetings with reading groups, writing groups, Aboriginal students, and the public speaks to his reputation as an exceptional teacher and mentor."

The "Laurier Reads Boyden" reading group is open to all faculty, staff and students in the Laurier community. The group will read *Through Black Spruce* and meet Jan. 30, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre to discuss a variety of topics related to Aboriginal culture and the novel itself. A second reading group is being organized for first-year students through Residence Life. Boyden will meet with members of both reading groups during his visit.

Boyden is an award-winning novelist whose work has been influenced by his Métis heritage. His first novel, *Three Day Road*, won the McNally Robinson Aboriginal Book of the Year Award, the Amazon/Books in Canada First Novel Award, and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize in 2006, and was nominated for a 2005 Governor General's Award. His second novel, *Through Black Spruce*, won the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

During a visit to Laurier's Brantford campus in November, Boyden announced that he is working on the third novel in the trilogy, which will likely be available in spring 2013. He is also writing his first young adult novel. In addition to writing, he is starting a not-for-profit organization to help teens who may be at risk of suicide in Aboriginal communities.

Boyden's visit to Laurier is being sponsored by the Office of the Vice-President: Academic and Provost, with the assistance of Laurier's Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.

For more information about the "Laurier Reads Boyden" reading group, please contact Associate Professor Tanis MacDonald in the Department of English and Film Studies at tmacdonald@wlu.ca.