

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Author Joseph Boyden to be Laurier's 2011-2012 writer-in-residence**

BRANTFORD – Celebrated author Joseph Boyden will be visiting Laurier's Brantford and Waterloo campuses as the university's writer-in-residence. Boyden will visit Laurier's Brantford campus Nov. 17 and 18 to give a public lecture, discuss his work, and talk to students and faculty about writing. He is scheduled to visit Laurier's Waterloo campus in early 2012.

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 the 2005 Governor General's Awards. His second novel, *Through Black Spruce*, won the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize.

Boyden also wrote *Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont*, a dual biography published as part of the Extraordinary Canadians series.

"Writers of Joseph Boyden's calibre are inspirational within a university community; the opportunities for students and faculty to interact with an author in person engages them in a critical reading process that is at an entirely different level than is usual for literature courses," said Deborah MacLatchy, Laurier's vice-president: academic and provost. "Joseph has an outstanding reputation as a teacher and role model and we are excited to provide aspiring writers at Laurier and in the external community the chance to learn from him."

Boyden's visit to Brantford includes: a public reading on Nov. 17 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Brantford Public Library; a public lecture Nov. 17 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Room 002 of Laurier Brantford's Research and Academic Centre West; and a public reading Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Grand River Room of the Six Nations Polytechnic, located in the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, southeast of Brantford. Boyden will also be meeting with Laurier Brantford students and faculty during his two-day visit.

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

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