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Laurier's Anne Wilson re-appointed to Canada Research Chair in Social Psychology

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is pleased to announce the appointment of Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Social Psychology, Anne Wilson, to a second five-year term.

The most recent Canada Research Chair appointments were officially presented on Friday, October 12, at the University of Toronto by the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology).

“Wilson is clearly an extremely accomplished scholar,” said Abby Goodrum, Laurier’s vice-president: Research. “Her work has already had a significant impact on her field and has very clear theoretical and practical implications.”

Wilson was first appointed to the tier 2 CRC in 2007. During her first term, her research focused on the links between how people project themselves into the future and how that affects their motivation to pursue goals. In particular, she looked at the kinds of decisions people make when they feel “close and connected” to their future selves, compared to when they see the future as remote.

During her second term, Wilson will be extending this research by investigating how people respond to the possibility of a bleaker future in which they are at high risk of a negative outcome.

“As humans, we have a special capacity to think about, imagine, and plan for the future,” Wilson said. In her current research, she is interested in how people think and behave when they anticipate a distressing outcome (for example, heart disease or financial crisis or environmental devastation).

Laurier’s other Canada Research Chairs include:

- Canada Research Chair in International Human Rights (tier 1), Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann
- Canada Research Chair in Mathematical Modelling (tier 1), Roderick Melnik
- Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Hydrology and Water Resources (tier 2), William Quinton
- Canada Research Chair in Group Dynamics and Physical Activity (tier 2), Mark A. Eys
- Canada Research Chair in International Migration (tier 2), Alison Mountz
- Canada Research Chair in Forests and Global Change (tier 2), Jennifer Baltzer
- Canada Research Chair in Market Insight and Innovation (tier 2), Tripat Gill

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In total, \$121.6 million is being invested to support 155 newly awarded or renewed Canada Research Chairs. These chairholders will undertake new, cutting-edge research at 42 Canadian post-secondary institutions. This Government of Canada investment allows Canadian post-secondary institutions to strengthen their position as global leaders in research and development, bringing greater economic opportunities for Canadians.

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