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Award-winning writer Thomas King to speak at Laurier about his latest book, *The Inconvenient Indian*

WATERLOO – Award-winning writer, educator and Aboriginal activist Thomas King will visit Laurier’s Waterloo campus March 21 to discuss his latest book, which addresses the treaties, massacres, disputes and agreements that have defined the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada.

In his latest book, *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America*, King uncovers the myths behind events such as the massacre of settlers by Indians. He also brings to life historical characters such as John Smith and Pocahontas, Will Rogers, and Louis Riel.

“We are so pleased Thomas King has agreed to speak at Laurier,” said Jean Becker, senior advisor of Laurier’s Office of Aboriginal Initiatives. “*The Inconvenient Indian* is an important book, and Thomas is a powerful storyteller who can lead us through the complexities and challenges of the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.”

King’s visit to Laurier was initiated as part of an English course taught by Michael Ackerman, a disability consultant in Laurier’s Accessible Learning Department. The course, *The Working Canadian Writer*, is designed to give students direct access to contemporary Canadian authors. Ackerman collaborated with Denoja Kankesan, the coordinator for General Book/Faculty Relations at the Laurier Bookstore, to bring King to the university.

“King’s lecture comes at a significant time in terms of increasing discussions about Aboriginal rights and the Idle No More movement,” said Ackerman. “We felt as though this warranted opening up the class to the broader campus community.”

For the past five decades, King has worked as an activist for native causes, as an administrator in native programs, and is the first Aboriginal person to deliver the prestigious Massey Lectures. Currently a professor of English at the University of Guelph, King is also the bestselling, award-winning author of five novels and two collections of short stories, and is the creator of the *Dead Dog Café Comedy Hour*, a CBC Radio One series.

The Laurier event is March 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Senate and Board Chambers at the university’s Waterloo campus. It is free and open to the public.