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Former MPP Elizabeth Witmer to deliver Laurier Association for Lifelong Learning anniversary lecture

WATERLOO – Longtime Kitchener-Waterloo MPP **Elizabeth Witmer** will be speaking on Laurier's Waterloo campus **May 27** to help mark the 17th anniversary of the Laurier Association for Lifelong Learning (LALL).

Witmer's lecture, "Political Life and Stops Along the Way," will discuss the lessons she's learned from her 32 years as a public servant. A natural champion for education, Witmer began her political career with the Waterloo Region School Board in 1980 — becoming the board's chair in 1984 — after working as a secondary school teacher for 12 years.

First elected MPP for the Waterloo North riding (since renamed Kitchener-Waterloo) in 1990, Witmer would go on to serve 22-straight years in the provincial legislature, holding multiple cabinet positions including minister of education, minister of health, minister of labour, minister of the environment and deputy premier. In 2012, Witmer was named Chair of Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

Witmer has been a proponent of learning throughout her career and even as recently as 2013, added a new degree to her resume.

"I have always been a strong advocate of lifelong learning. From my time as Chair of the Waterloo Region School Board, through my career as MPP for Kitchener-Waterloo and, most recently, when I graduated from the Directors Education Program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Business in 2013," said Witmer. "I am looking forward to celebrating the Laurier Association for Lifelong Learning's 17th anniversary and getting the chance to share my experiences and my passion for learning."

Formed in 1997, LALL is a nonprofit organization supported by Laurier's Office of Continuing Studies that provides a unique learning option for adults, offering six-week courses intended for personal interest or self-education. For more information on LALL, [click here](#).

"We are delighted to have Ms. Witmer as our guest speaker for the evening," said Lisa Fanjoy, manager of Online Learning and Continuing Studies at Laurier. "As a longtime supporter of education in Waterloo Region, we are looking forward to hearing her perspective on lifelong learning in relation to her many roles in public service."

The **May 27 lecture** will be held in the **Senate and Board Chamber** on **Laurier's Waterloo campus** and is open to the public. Doors will open at **6:30 p.m.**, with the lecture scheduled to begin at **7 p.m.** Tickets to the event can be purchased from the Office of Continuing Studies (202 Regina St. North, Room 294) or at the door for **\$10**. For more information, contact the Laurier Association for Lifelong Learning at 519-884-0710 ext. 4628 or lall@wlu.ca.