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Laurier researchers to unveil findings of new study aimed at ending gendered violence on campuses

WATERLOO – On Tuesday, March 10 researchers from Wilfrid Laurier University will discuss the findings of a unique study into the nature and extent of gendered violence on the university's campuses, while also unveiling evidence-informed recommendations for developing culture-changing awareness programs and enhancing support services for survivors of gendered violence.

Called *The Change Project*, the initiative includes quantitative and qualitative research undertaken on Laurier's two campuses over the past two years and presents it along with an environmental scan of promising practices at other universities.

"Gendered violence on university campuses is a critical issue that demands a collective and committed response," said Principal Researcher Ginette Lafrenière. "The purpose of *The Change Project* was to enhance our understanding of the nature and extent of gendered violence on our campuses and to provide sound evidence to inform the development of comprehensive strategies to change the culture that enables gendered violence to persist, and to improve support services for survivors."

The Change Project research was conducted by members of the Social Innovation Research Group (SIRG) in the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University, in partnership with the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region. The project received funding from Status of Women Canada, the Laurier Student Life Levy, and Mitacs.

Members of the media and the community are invited to a presentation about the research findings and to participate in a Question & Answer session with the researchers, university officials and representatives from the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region.

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2015

TIME: Noon to 1 p.m.

LOCATION: The Senate and Board Chamber, Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo Campus), 75 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario. For directions and parking, please see www.wlu.ca/maps