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## Laurier Faculty of Social Work to host book launch examining effects of colonialism on Indigenous people

KITCHENER – Wilfrid Laurier University will host a public talk March 20 with Banakonda Kennedy-Kish Bell and Ben Carniol, authors of *Case Critical: Social Services and Social Justice in Canada, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition* (2017), exploring the personal trauma and devastation inflicted on Indigenous people by past and present colonialism.

Kennedy-Kish Bell is elder-in-residence and Carniol is scholar-in-residence at Laurier's Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work. They both work in the faculty's Master of Social Work Aboriginal Field of Study program.

"At this moment in time, when Indigenous peoples and settler people are confronted with the current socio-political climates and understanding of the significance of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, Ben and Banakonda's work sets the stage toward understanding and knowing how we create pathways toward reconciling the truth of Canadian history, policy implications for people and practice, and respecting Indigenous peoples need for reclamation of our culture, history and place in Creation," said Kathy Absolon, associate dean: Aboriginal Field of Study, Faculty of Social Work. "They are our Elders and we all become enriched with their knowledge and wisdom."

The latest edition of their new book, *Case Critical*, applies decolonized, critical analysis to highlight what is often hidden from view for most Canadians: the personal trauma and communal devastation inflicted on Indigenous people by past and present colonialism and the ways in which neoliberal tax cuts, austerity, and privatization create more inequality, homelessness, and despair among both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Kennedy-Kish Bell and Carniol argue that social service providers should become social activists, working in solidarity with progressive grassroots social movements to de-legitimize colonial and neoliberal policies.

The book launch for *Case Critical* is sponsored by the Manulife Centre for Community Health Research. The event, which is open to the public, will take place March 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Faculty of Social Work's Auditorium, 120 Duke Street, Kitchener. Copies of *Case Critical* will be available for purchase and signing. For more information, please contact [Kathy Absolon-King](mailto:kabsolon@wlu.ca).