



Margaret Schneider, Associate Professor  
Kinesiology and Physical Education, Wilfrid Laurier University  
519-884-0710 ext. 4214 or [mschneider@wlu.ca](mailto:mschneider@wlu.ca)

Kevin Crowley, Director  
Communications & Public Affairs, Wilfrid Laurier University  
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or [kcrowley@wlu.ca](mailto:kcrowley@wlu.ca)

NOV. 2, 2017 | 162-17

## Laurier to host movie screening and panel discussion to celebrate youth on the autism spectrum

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University's **Sun Life Financial Centre for Physically Active Communities** is offering a free screening of *Swim Team* at 7 p.m. on **Nov. 7**. The film is a critically acclaimed documentary about a swim team made up of youth on the autism spectrum and the coach who helps them succeed. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion by community experts.

The movie evening, which will take place in Room N1002 in the Science Building on Laurier's **Waterloo campus**, will also serve as an opportunity for parents, caregivers and community members to socialize, network and celebrate young people with autism spectrum disorder.

"The event will raise awareness of one community's solution to providing meaningful physical activity for individuals with autism spectrum disorder," said **Margaret Schneider**, an associate professor with Laurier's [Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education](#) and the lead organizer of the event.

"The film is a testament to the strength of families of children with autism spectrum disorder and their perseverance to advocate on behalf of their children, providing them with meaningful opportunities for inclusion and independence where none previously existed in their community," said Schneider.

The panel discussion will offer attendees the opportunity to ask the panelists questions and also provide some suggestions of the types of programming they would like to see in the community.

Panelists will include:

- [Margaret Schneider](#), Laurier associate professor, Kinesiology and Physical Education, who teaches and researches in the area of adapted physical activity for individuals with disability and chronic illness.
- [Janet McLaughlin](#), Laurier associate professor, Health Studies, who, along with Schneider, researches autism support services in Ontario for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families.
- [Kim Dawson](#), Laurier professor, Kinesiology and Physical Education, and interim director of the Sun Life Financial Centre for Physically Active Communities.
- **Natalie Robinson**, clinical services manager, KidsAbility Centre for Child Development.
- **Dorothy McCabe**, director of community and organizational development, KidsAbility Centre for Child Development.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged, though not required, at [impactflow.com](http://impactflow.com).

...more

### **About the Sun Life Financial Centre for Physically Active Communities**

The Sun Life Financial Centre for Physically Active Communities (CPAC) provides and promotes physical activity programming and lifestyle education for children and youth within the Region of Waterloo. The goal of the centre is to remove as many barriers (e.g., financial, language, and transportation) to physical activity as possible. While improving access to physical activity programming within the community, the centre also advances interdisciplinary research in areas related to physical activity and exercise science. CPAC is supported by Sun Life Financial and Pepsi Co., and maintains a number of key partnerships in the community including Diabetes Canada.

### **Learn More**

- [Swim Team film website](#)
- Sun Life Financial Centre for Physically Active Communities on [Facebook](#)

- 30 -