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M E D I A R E L E A S E

February 16, 2007
For Immediate Release

Celebrating Research at UWinnipeg: From Tree Rings to Indigenous Science Education

WINNIPEG—The University of Winnipeg's expertise in environmental research, Aboriginal education, children's literature and natural sciences were recently recognized by the federal government's Canada Research Chairs program and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) .

The University of Winnipeg will pay tribute to its two newest Canada Research Chair appointments, a renewed Canada Research Chair and a CFI recipient at a celebration on **Monday, February 19, 2007**.

UWinnipeg Canada Research Chair & CFI Celebration

Monday, February 19, 2007

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Duckworth Centre Lounge (Second Floor, Duckworth Centre)

Spence Street at Ellice Avenue

University of Winnipeg President Dr. Lloyd Axworthy says he is proud of the faculty members who have been honoured for their outstanding research and scholarship by the Canada Research Chairs program.

"These appointments reflect very well on the quality and significance of research underway at The University of Winnipeg," said Axworthy. "Our students will reap the benefits of collaborating on world-class research and studying in an enriching and motivating environment. The Government of Canada has clearly recognized and rewarded The University of Winnipeg's leadership in the areas of science, environmental studies, children's literature and Aboriginal education."

Dr. Dawn Sutherland, awarded a *Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Science Education* in 2006, is exploring the relationship between culture and science education in Indigenous communities, in particular in Manitoba. A five-year, \$500,000 appointment, this Canada Research Chair builds on Sutherland's expertise teaching education students in the field of science by incorporating traditional Aboriginal knowledge into her lessons. She aims to have Aboriginal culture integrated into school curricula so science education is more meaningful, interesting, and relevant for Aboriginal students. Sutherland's research will also benefit UWinnipeg's Innovative Learning Centre which includes programs with local schools such as *Eco-Kids: Adventures in Environmental Science* new Richardson College for the Environment first announced last Fall.

Dr. Mavis Reimer, Associate Professor in English, was named *Canada Research Chair in the Culture of Childhood* in 2005. A five-year, \$500,000 appointment, this Canada Research Chair focuses on children's literature and the culture of childhood. The overall objective of Reimer's research is to

account for the cultural work of texts directed to children and youth and to encourage the critical thinking in young readers.

Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Assistant Professor in Physics, was awarded CFI research funding in 2006 for a Subatomic Physics Detector Lab. The \$220,000 in funding he received includes a \$90,000 CFI-Leaders Opportunity Fund grant, \$90,000 from the Province of Manitoba and \$40,000 from various corporate donors. The detector lab increases the capacity for research and training at UWinnipeg and enables students to contribute to collaborative subatomic physics research being conducted on an international scale.

Dr. Jacques Tardif, first named *Canada Research Chair in Dendrochronology* in 2002, had his CRC renewed in 2007 for another five-year, \$500,000 appointment. As *Canada Research Chair in Dendrochronology*, Tardif, Associate Professor in Biology, conducts field and laboratory work to collect and analyze samples of tree-rings from various parts of Manitoba. His objectives are an improved understanding of climate change patterns, forest disturbances and providing an effective planning tool.

At Monday's event, UWinnipeg President Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, along with Dr. Claudia Wright, Acting Vice-President (Research and Graduate Studies), will speak briefly about the Canada Research Chair and CFI programs and award recipients. John ApSimon, Executive Director of the Canada Research Chairs Program will bring greetings on behalf of the Government of Canada. Reimer, Sutherland, Tardif and Martin will be available for media interviews.

The Canada Research Chairs Program stands at the centre of a national strategy by the Government of Canada to make Canada one of the world's top five countries for research and development. The Canada Research Chairs Program invests \$300 million a year to attract and retain some of the world's most accomplished and promising minds. Chairholders advance the frontiers of knowledge in their fields, not only through their own work, but also by teaching and supervising students and coordinating the work of other researchers.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that benefits Canadians.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Home to more than 9,200 full- and part-time students, UWinnipeg has been ranked by our graduates in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience" (Maclean's Graduate Survey, June 2006). The Globe & Mail 2006 Report Card gives The University of Winnipeg an overall 'A' grade in the areas of quality of education, teaching quality, class sizes, faculty-student interaction, and the availability of faculty outside classroom hours. Find out why. Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca

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