



# ACUP

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES  
ASSOCIATION DES PRESSES UNIVERSITAIRES CANADIENNES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ACUP RALLIES SUPPORT FOR WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY PRESS**

TORONTO – December 11, 2014 – **The Association of Canadian University Presses (ACUP)** has joined forces with other members of the Publishing community to rally support for **Wilfrid Laurier University Press (WLUP)**. WLUP has recently been informed through a university -wide institution process that the Press “is not essential to the vision and mission of the University” and that the subsidy the Press received should be phased-out as an operational program.

The “Phase Out or Minimize” recommendation made by the University report will have an extremely damaging effect on WLUP, its authors and the broader scholarly community.

WLUP has been a leader in the dissemination of scholarly research for 40 years. Over the past decade alone, it has been regularly nominated and repeatedly won such prestigious awards as the **Governor General's Literary Award in Non-Fiction**, the **Gabrielle Roy Prize**, the **Canada Book Prize in the Social Sciences** and the **Canada Book Prize in the Humanities** (both of which are awarded by the **Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences**).

WLUP has published widely acclaimed Canadian authors including, **Bruce Elder**, **Janice Stein**, **Nikki Strong-Boag** and **Smaro Kamboureli**, as well as such leading Wilfrid Laurier faculty members as **Cynthia Comacchio**, **Michel Desjardins**, and **Eleanor Ty**.

WLUP established its reputation for excellence in scholarly publishing in the areas of Canadian Literature, Indigenous Studies, Life Writing, Environmental Humanities, Childhood and Family Studies, Film and Media Studies, Cultural Studies, Religious Studies, and social work.

An on-line petition has been circulating across social media and on the publishing industry blog [Quill and Quire](#). To read the petition in its entirety, [follow this link](#).

The ACUP is asking its publishing colleagues and general readers alike to take part in an email campaign designed to urge the following senior administrators at Wilfrid Laurier University to continue to subsidize the Press at current levels, and to recognise the value that WLUP contributes to its University and to the broader scholarly community:

Dr. Max Blouw President and Vice-Chancellor: [mblouw@wlu.ca](mailto:mblouw@wlu.ca)

James Butler, VP Finance: [jbutler@wlu.ca](mailto:jbutler@wlu.ca)

Deborah MacLatchy, VPA and Provost: [dmaclatchy@wlu.ca](mailto:dmaclatchy@wlu.ca)

Below, please find a sample letter to send your message to whichever recipient you choose. Feel free to edit or revise as you see fit.

Thank you for supporting Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

**Association of Canadian University Presses**

<http://www.acup.ca>

**SAMPLE EMAIL:**

I am writing in support of the stellar publishing program at Wilfrid Laurier University Press (WLUP) and to urge you to continue to support it fully.

By now you probably have heard from others about Press's impressive achievements, its leadership as a publisher of Canadian Literature and Indigenous Studies, its many awards, including: The Governor General's Literary Award in Non-Fiction; Gabrielle Roy Prize; and the Canada Book Prize in the Social Sciences (Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences), and the undeniable value it adds to Ontario and to Canada.

Let me add that WLUP also provides tremendous value for money, advancing Wilfrid Laurier University's educational mission around the globe and spreading its name to institutions and individuals who otherwise would have no contact with the University. [If possible please include a personal testimonial here; e.g., author of award-winning book; scholar in field published by WLUP; librarian; former staffer; reviewer; alumnus.]

Wilfrid Laurier surely faces profound economic challenges, and difficult decisions must be made. In weighing those decisions, however, consider that it takes decades of thoughtful work by skilled professionals to build a publishing program of the calibre and effectiveness of WLUP, but only the stroke of a pen to cripple it irrevocably. I urge you not to wield that pen. Thank you for supporting Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Yours Sincerely,

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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