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Laurentian University creates School of Rural and Northern Health

Sudbury (Ontario) – Laurentian University is pleased to announce the creation of a School of Rural and Northern Health.

The newly formed School is part of the Faculty of Professional Schools. The focus of the new School of Rural and Northern Health is to provide opportunities for training in rural and northern health. The School will provide training for students from a variety of health streams, provide a critical mass in rural and northern health to promote faculty development, and facilitate linkages with community health organizations in the north.

Dr. Nancy Young is the interim director of the new School. She also holds a Canada Research Chair in Rural and Northern Children's Health and is an internationally recognized expert in the measurement of children's health. Dr. Young's work has enabled clinicians and scientists to view health through the eyes of children. Her current research focuses on evaluating the relevance of traditional health indicators for children in rural and northern regions.

Dr. Raymond Pong is a key faculty member supporting the new School. He is an internationally recognized expert in rural health, and is the director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR).

The School of Rural and Northern Health is also pleased to announce the recent addition of Dr. Elizabeth Wenghofer. Dr. Wenghofer completed her PhD at the University of Toronto, and joined Laurentian University as faculty member in 2007. She brings expertise in health policy.

The School of Rural and Northern Health houses the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Rural and Northern Health. This PhD program was created in 2006, and builds on Laurentian University's research priority in rural and northern health. This program draws upon a broad range of disciplines from within the Faculty of Professional Schools, and beyond. The first two cohorts of students have been highly successful, and many have secured prestigious external awards to fund their training. The next deadline for applications to enter the PhD program is January 31, 2008.

For more information, please contact Dr. Nancy Young, at (705) 675-1151, ext. 4014 or nyoung@laurentian.ca.

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