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For Immediate Release

The Challenge of Dialogue:

Exploring the Links Between

International Development and Conflict Resolution Studies

WINNIPEG — Our uncertainty about Canada's potential role in current and post-conflict Iraq highlights the need to build linkages between International Development and Conflict Resolution. What were the root causes of the conflict? What are the conditions necessary for peace-building and reconstruction in a war-torn country such as Iraq?

Research on the intersection of International Development and Conflict Resolution Studies is at the cutting edge. **On Friday, April 11 academics and practitioners from both fields will gather at The University of Winnipeg for *The Challenge of Dialogue*.** This day-long workshop, hosted by Menno Simons College, is designed to explore how concepts in these two fields overlap at both the international and local levels.

Practitioners in the field of development are discovering that negotiation is a necessity among the various stakeholders involved in project implementation. Conflict resolution practitioners find that resolving conflicts can be integrally connected to development—a cause of conflict and a barrier to the realization of a culture of peace. “Real people with real visions for their future, whether they live in Africa, Asia or Manitoba, demand collaboration between these two fields of study and practice,” says Judith Harris, International Development Studies Coordinator. “This workshop is bringing people who are committed to the issues together from Winnipeg and across Canada to talk about building toward a new ‘culture of peace’.”

This forum will provide an opportunity to build a collaborative learning site where students, researchers, and practitioners can exchange ideas and learn from each other.

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To arrange an interview with Anna Snyder, Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies, or Judith Harris, Coordinator of International Development Studies, please contact Katherine Unruh, Director of Communications, at 204.786.9872 or k.unruh@uwinnipeg.ca

