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## MEDIA RELEASE

**March 26, 2007**  
**For Immediate Release**

### **UWinnipeg Welcomes The Hon. Rev. Bill Blaikie as Adjunct Professor of Theology and Politics**

WINNIPEG – Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, President & Vice Chancellor of The University of Winnipeg, today announced the appointment of The Honourable Reverend Bill Blaikie, M.P., P.C., as Adjunct Professor of Theology and Politics. Professor Blaikie will assume his new responsibilities after his parliamentary obligations are completed.

“This appointment will add an eclectic mix of theology and politics to our diverse academic community,” said Dr. Axworthy. “Bill Blaikie is one of the most respected parliamentarians in Canada. His unique perspectives and vast experience in these areas will make a significant contribution to the knowledge and teachings of all of our faculties.”

Professor Blaikie said “I look forward to embarking in this new direction and way of public service, and to working towards the further development of the University’s Centre for Theology and Progressive Public Policy.”

Dean of Theology Dr. James Christie noted that “this addition to our faculty comes at a time when we are embarking on an appeal to all Christians to join together in the causes of justice and peace for all, at our own community level, nationally, and internationally. Religion is the politics of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” he added. “It is the time for the Christian Community in Canada to work together for the common good, and to seek out methods and opportunities to further the cause of ensuring that all peoples have the right to justice and peace.”

Professor Blaikie is joining The University at a crucial time, when the Faculty of Theology is engaging in a renewed initiative to become a more integral part of The University of Winnipeg. It is a time when the mission of the Faculty of Theology is to revitalize and reestablish the relevance and vision of the social gospel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the same manner that the founding United College defined it in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Dean of the Faculty of Arts David Fitzpatrick said “The opportunity to have the Honourable Bill Blaikie as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Politics is both appealing and exciting. As a long serving Member of Parliament, he has represented Winnipeg with great distinction.” Dean Fitzpatrick added that “Bill Blaikie's extensive knowledge and experience in many aspects of Canadian politics will be most beneficial during his interactions with faculty members and students in the Department of Politics.”

*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](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca)*

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