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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

UWinnipeg Honorary Doctorate Recipient Sheila Watt-Cloutier Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

WINNIPEG—University of Winnipeg Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient Sheila Watt-Cloutier (HD '06) has been nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize for her untiring efforts on behalf of the Inuit of the North and for her international humanitarian and environmental activism.

“This is a great honour for our distinguished Honorary Doctorate recipient Sheila Watt-Cloutier and a momentous recognition of the critical impact global warming is having on the Inuit of the North and their way of life,” said UWinnipeg President Lloyd Axworthy, himself a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. “We congratulate her and hope that this nomination will bring additional attention to the serious plight faced by the Inuit of the North due to climate change.”

Watt-Cloutier, 53, served until last summer as International Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference—the Inuit organization that represents the interests internationally of 155,000 Inuit residents in Canada, Greenland, Alaska, and Chukotka in the Far East of the Federation of Russia. She spoke about her work with the ICC when she served as a keynote speaker at UWinnipeg's QUEST: North -The Circumpolar Reality in March 2005.

“Protect the Arctic-Save the Planet” was coined by Watt-Cloutier and it became a common phrase in speeches she delivered around the world. As Chair of ICC, her vision was to put the human/Inuit face on the global map. She felt that if citizens of the world could “connect” with the challenges the Arctic and its people are facing, it will lead to better understanding of how the planet and its people are one.

Watt-Cloutier has received many honours, including the Global Environment Award from the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations in 2002, the 2004 Aboriginal Achievement Award for Environment and the 2005 United Nations Champion of the Earth Award and the Sophie prize in Norway (following in the footsteps of Nobel Peace prize winner Wangari Maathai). In 2006, she was awarded the inaugural Northern Medal by the outgoing Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, the International Environmental Leadership Award by Global Green USA and the Citation of Lifetime Achievement at the Canadian Environment Awards. Last year, she was also named an Officer of the Order of Canada and selected as one of Canada's five nation builders by *The Globe and Mail*.

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

-30-

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