

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canada's Leading Child Care Advocate to Deliver 24th Annual Margaret Laurence Lecture

Martha Friendly argues child care should be more than luck in March 10 public lecture at Trent University

Thursday, February 26, 2015, Peterborough

Canada's leading child care advocate, Martha Friendly, will deliver the 24th annual Margaret Laurence Lecture, a free public event, at Bagnani Hall, Trill College, Trent University (300 London St.) on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m.

In her lecture, "Child care shouldn't be just a matter of luck", Ms. Friendly questions what public policy changes are needed to ensure that finding affordable, quality child care shifts from luck to entitlement.

She argues child care began as a charitable welfare service but as more and more mothers have entered the workforce, it has become a commodity in a market that fails to deliver high quality affordable services. However, Ms. Friendly insists that Canada has the advantage of reflection to shape both a vision of the kind of child care system that is possible, and an analysis of the public policy needed to achieve the vision.

"The Margaret Laurence lecture series engages with a range of feminist and social justice issues, and affordable, quality child care is critical to advancing a broad-based equity agenda," said. Dr. Margaret Hobbs, chair, Gender and Women's Studies, Trent University. "No one has been more influential and tenacious in this continuing struggle in Canada than Martha Friendly. Her talk will inspire us all."

Ms. Friendly is Canada's leading child care advocate, a highly respected researcher, and a major architect of policy thinking on child care issues. For more than 40 years, she has spearheaded research projects and advocacy campaigns, all of which have contributed to the fight for universal, high-quality, accessible, and inclusive early childhood education and child care in Canada. She is the founder and executive director of the Childcare Resource and Research Unit (CRRU), Canada's only policy research institute for early childhood education and care. She has also founded and participated in a number of child care advocacy groups, including the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada, and she has published extensively on ECEC in a variety of academic and community-based venues.

This lecture is free and members of the community are encouraged to attend. A reception will follow at the Trend.

About the Margaret Laurence Lecture

The Margaret Laurence Lecture is an annual public lecture, funded by the Margaret Laurence Lecture fund and the Canadian Studies Directorate, Heritage Canada. It is intended to bring a distinguished speaker to Trent to address a topic related to Margaret Laurence's own intellectual and political passions, especially women's involvement in peace, ecology, literature, and feminism.

For more information, please contact:

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