



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

June 1, 2015
For immediate release

Catholic Board Names Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient

Dr. Doug Letson, C.M., receives prestigious honour

Waterloo Region, ON – The students, staff and trustees of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools proudly congratulate **Dr. Doug Letson** as the school board's 2015 **Distinguished Graduate Award** honouree. Born and raised in Kitchener Dr. Letson is a graduate of the former **St. Jerome's High School** and is retired president of **St. Jerome's University** in Waterloo. The award will be presented on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at the **Resurrection Catholic Secondary School** graduation ceremony.

QuickFacts

- ✓ Dr. Letson taught English at St. Jerome's University from 1967 to 2005 and also fulfilled many administrative roles including chair of the English department, assistant dean and vice president. In 1989 he was appointed SJU's first lay president – a position he held until 1999. In 2005, the St. Jerome's community centre was named in his honour. He is currently President Emeritus of SJU.
- ✓ Dr. Letson is well-known across Waterloo Region, having variously served as Chair of the St. Mary's General Hospital Board of Trustees and President of the Walter Bean Grand River Community Trails Foundation. He has also served on the boards of KidsAbility, the Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation and the Grand River Conservation Foundation.
- ✓ In addition to many scholarly articles Dr. Letson has co-authored several books with his former colleague and former SJU president Michael Higgins, including: *Power and Peril: The Catholic Church at the Crossroads* (2002); *Soundings: Conversations about Catholicism* (2000) and *The Jesuit Mystique* (1995.) In 2001, he wrote *Sex and Marriage in the Catholic Tradition: An Historical Overview*.
- ✓ In 2013 Governor General David Johnston appointed Dr. Letson a Member of the Order of Canada (C.M.) "for his contributions to the betterment of his community and for his leadership of numerous organizations in the fields of education and health care".

Quotes

"At the heart of Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools lie the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. When our students graduate we expect that they will have become *Discerning Believers • Effective Communicators • Reflective, Creative & Holistic Thinkers • Self-directed, Responsible, Lifelong Learners • Collaborative Contributors • Caring Family Members • and Responsible Citizens*. Doug Letson embodies all of those great qualities and we are honoured to have him as our 2015 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient."

~~ Manuel da Silva, Chair of the Board

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The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and four adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 179-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: [@WCDSBNewsWire](#) - [#WCDSBAwesome](#).

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