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Disaster Resistance at Two Canadian Universities: Case Studies of the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University

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Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Workshop Session 4

Time of Session: 3:30-5:00PM

Session Title: Examining University Preparedness

A. Situated Preparedness: The Negotiation of a Future Catastrophe in a California University

Speaker: Natalie Baker, University of California

B. Disaster Resistance at Two Canadian Universities: Case Studies of the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University

Speaker: Catherine Brown, Waterloo University

Room: 205

Head Count: 7

Note Taker: Kyle Tveten
Examining University Preparedness

Disaster Resistance at Two Canadian Universities – Catherine Brown

- Both Waterloo Univ. and Wilfred Laurier Univ. are public universities

- Results: Mental health initiatives in response to disasters for staff and students do not exist and need to be developed and implemented.

- Results: Lack of DRU POV
  - Canadian units not required to develop DRU plans – it is the general view that funds are better used elsewhere due to lack of frequency of disasters.

QUESTIONS:

- No outside sources of funding for DRU programs for Canadian universities.

- Cause of 2003 Toronto Blackout?
  - Human error: a branch had broken and was threatening to fall on power system. The detection system failed to call attention to it.