



**Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
Société de la médecine rurale du Canada**

Media Release

Université Laval Produces 18% of Canada's Rural Doctors

SHAWVILLE, QC /May 1st, 2002/ - Université Laval in Quebec city, produces 18% of all Canadian trained family doctors practising in rural and remote regions. A study published today by the Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine shows that 113 of the 271 graduates of Laval Family Medicine from years 1994 to 1998 were in rural practice two years past graduation.

Statistics Canada has found that 31.4% of Canadians live in predominantly rural areas. However only an average of 16% of Canadian GP's and family doctors work there. Study author Dr Peter Hutten-Czapski says "Université Laval more than doubles the national average by recruiting students from rural areas and training them in the skills that they need to practice in those areas." He adds "We need more schools to become like Université Laval to help us treat the health care needs of people who live in remote areas."

The Society of Rural Physicians presented its case to Mr Romanow last month on how the health care system could learn from successful models to meet the needs of its population.

The study found that a large percentage of family medicine graduates from Université de Sherbrooke (33%) and Memorial University (46%) also are rural doctors. Memorial has been awarded this year the Society of Rural Physicians Award for the best Rural Family Practice Training Program.

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The CJRM study "Who makes Canada's rural doctors?" by P Hutten Czapski and D Thurber is published in the spring issue at <http://www.cma.ca>