

## **President's report to Senate**

*February 11, 2025*

Dear Senate colleagues,

On January 30, Laurentian was pleased to announce that it had completed the sale of the Vale Living with Lakes Centre to the Province. This step marks an important milestone as the University completes the steps outlined by the courts in order to exit creditor protection.

An agreement to lease the property back from the Province has also been finalized. This will allow Laurentian to maintain University activities and continue to benefit from the use of the facilities. While I understand why the news of this sale may be met with trepidation by some in the University community, I can assure you that the daily activities of the Living with Lakes Centre will not be affected by the sale. The teaching and research activities that happen there will continue uninterrupted, and Laurentian remains strongly committed to the Centre's continued success.

We continue to work with the Province to complete the sale of the remaining properties in a timely manner, ahead of the November 2025 deadline set by the courts.

### **Reconnecting with alumni, donors, and friends of Laurentian**

From January 25-27, I attended a Model Parliament in Ottawa. While the event has been taking place since 1992, this is the sixth time the event has been organized by alumni of Laurentian, and it is the second event that includes both alumni and current students. The event provides students with a valuable chance to learn more about how legislation is debated and passed.

On January 16, I made a second presentation this year to the local Rotary Club, this time to the Sunrisers group. My presentation focused on the University's new strategic plan and the important role that we play for the local community.

Finally, I met with the President of the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce. Some of you will recall that the Chamber had a change in leadership last summer, with Marie Litalien taking over from Debbi Nicholson, who retired after a remarkable 45 years of leadership. The Sudbury Chamber of Commerce is a key partner for us as we look for ways to support local businesses and to build up the Greater Sudbury community as a whole.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to students from the Bharti School of Engineering and Computer Science, who competed in the 2025 Ontario Engineering Competition held at McMaster University on

January 25-26. The Laurentian team, which included Luis Urena Tejada, Samuel Branconnier, Evan Leduc and Quinn Ross, placed this in the Senior design category,

Congratulations to the Office of Student Success and to all those who participated in Career Week, which ran from January 20-24. The event included participation from employers in education, health care, social services, engineering, science, architecture, arts, and business. Students could also attend skill-building workshops that would help them transition to the labour market after graduation. These sorts of events are critical for our students as they reflect about what they might want to do after they leave us, and how they can use the education they received at Laurentian to have an impact on the world.

Congratulations to the Centre for Research in Occupational Safety and Health for another successful iteration of CROSHCon, which took place on January 24. CROSHcon is the Centre's free, online conference, which features presentations on the latest health and safety research on vibration and ergonomics, health and safety training, and field evaluation. This year, over 200 registrants joined the event for 11 presentations showcasing the latest research.

Congratulations to the participants in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Goodman Gold Challenge, which ran from January 29 to 31. Eleven teams from across the continent competed in this realistic mining investment case competition. Presented by Kinross Gold and organized by the Goodman School of Mines, teams of undergraduate students got the chance to play the role of finance firms looking to invest in a mining company.

Congratulations to the Voyageurs for hosting the OUA Women's Curling Championship from January 31 to February 2. As 2024 champions, the Voyageurs defended their title against 15 teams from across Ontario.

For the second year in a row, the Laurentian men's and women's basketball teams teamed up with the Sudbury Five to offer a full-day basketball triple-header at the Sudbury Community Arena on February 8. The women's team faced Queen's at 1 PM, followed by the men's team against Queen's at 3 PM. The night ended with the Sudbury Five facing the London Lightning at 7 PM.

### **Coming Up**

February is Black History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate Black history and to reflect on the contributions BIPOC people have made in the development of our country, our community, and our university. Events organized by the Laurentian University African Caribbean Student Association (LUACSA) and the Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights Office (EDHRO) will be taking place throughout the month.