

President's Report to Senate June 2024

Aanii, Hello, Bonjour,

Thank you to the many of you who took part in our convocation ceremonies earlier this month. It was a pleasure to be able to chat with many of you and especially to celebrate our graduates. I would also like to recognize the efforts of the honorary doctorate nominating committee, without whom we would not have been able to [award three honorary degrees to very deserving individuals](#). Convocation was rewarding and I'll look forward to the next occasion in the fall.

Leadership

As announced on June 3, our [new Dean of Management, Dr. Parvinder Arora](#), will join Laurentian on August 1, 2024. Most recently, Dr. Arora has been the Dean of the Schools of Business, Creative Industries, and Information Technology at Cambrian College. There, he led several key growth initiatives, including the launch of new programs, introduction of innovative delivery methods, and embedding Indigenous content in the curriculum of business programs.

The role of the Dean of Education and Health will soon be filled, as presentations from the final two candidates were held last week.

Thank you to those of you who served on the selection committees involved with these two new leadership positions.

Enrolment

June 3 marked the deadline for domestic high school students to accept their offers, giving us a good idea of what to expect in the fall. As we look ahead to our incoming class of students, we are seeing positive signs.

Domestically, we see a slight increase in the number of students coming directly from high schools confirming their choice to study at Laurentian (+1% or 7 students). We are also seeing a +6% increase in mature/transfer confirmants at the undergraduate level, with more activity expected from this student group over the next few months as we typically have less than half of these confirmants at this time.

At the graduate level, we are stable, with approximately the same number of students confirming their choice, relative to last year. At this time, we typically have 70% of our confirmants so we will expect more to confirm shortly.

Congratulations

Congrats to Research Excellence Award winners Dr. Linda Ambrose and Dr. John Ashley Scott. The annual award recognizes Laurentian faculty who have made outstanding and original contributions to their fields, particularly in the past five years, spanning applied, artistic, professional, and/or scientific domains.

MIRARCO has secured a tremendous investment from the federal government, with \$5 million to support domestic critical mineral value chains. This funding is intended to advance technological readiness of the recovery of battery metals from pyrrhotite-rich tailings by pilot testing three competing bioleaching technologies. Congratulations to the entire MIRARCO team.

Another special mention has been well deserved by Interim Provost Brouwer, who will serve in her final Senate meeting today. Dr. Brouwer has been instrumental in providing leadership to Laurentian for the last 18 months. I have greatly benefited from her perspectives and experience. During her time at Laurentian, she has successfully recruited multiple senior leaders including two deans . I would like to sincerely thank her for all she has done at Laurentian.

On May 23, the team at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre hosted an International Workshop, focused on Restoring Industrially Impacted Peatlands. This workshop featured researchers, government officials, and students from around the world. Congratulations to all involved with this critical event.