



President's Report to Senate November 2021

Over the past 9 months Laurentian has undertaken a journey of transformational change. Formal restructuring will continue for another several months. However, as the new Laurentian emerges from the restructuring process, we must work together to build its vision step by collegial step. We must rebuild engagement and trust as we rebuild and redefine the collegial leadership that is needed for Laurentian to achieve its full potential.

Laurentian's core values remain in place to guide us ever more firmly: we are inspired by the North and all its potential; we prioritize the building of relationships across communities and the North; the success of our students is the success of Laurentian; we continue to be defined by teaching and learning and; our research is aligned with the needs of the North and defined by curiosity.

We are proudly bilingual - at the forefront of a vision of bringing Canada's two official languages together to educate students in the language of their choice and contribute to the development of Northern Ontario and the country across both languages.

We are tricultural, providing access and educational pathways to many first-generation First Nations, Inuit and Métis students and being humbly committed to being a leader in truth and reconciliation.

Laurentian's value proposition as a bilingual university in a tricultural environment is something to be cherished – and preserved. It is a major strength and key attraction for students, whose ability to choose their future and make Laurentian a university “for and by students” must be protected.

Anchored by a strong core of on-campus learning and research, we are also a national leader in online learning -- reaching out across the North and beyond to provide access to learning opportunities, full-time, part-time, through full degree programs, microcredentials and lifelong learning.

We will go forward as a focused primarily undergraduate university, contributing research that is Northern focused, regionally relevant and globally impactful.

Our academic program offerings are focused to align with student demand and the needs of employers in the North. We offer 106 consolidated programs, including 33 in French, 73 in English, with 33 at the graduate level. These programs must continue to evolve in order to ensure that Laurentian's offerings continue to meet the changing needs of the North and Ontario. Laurentian has been at the top of its class with respect to the employment of our graduates for the past decade: 94% of Laurentian graduates are employed after just six months and 98% are employed after two years. Our programs must continue to provide outcomes that maintain this leadership as we also build our offerings that contribute to upskilling and reskilling throughout careers.

Laurentian offers a focused suite of undergraduate and graduate programs in [English](#) and [French](#) that are in demand and regionally relevant including offerings in Criminology/Criminologie, Droit et Justice/Law and Justice, English, Psychology/Psychologie, Business Administration/Administration des affaires, Sports Administration, Education/Éducation,

Kinesiology/Kinésiologie, Nursing/Sciences Infirmières, Indigenous Social Work, Service Social/Social Work, Architectural Studies, Biomedical Biology/Biologie biomédicale, Earth Sciences, Mining Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Orthophonie and Science Communication to name only a few.

Laurentian research and innovation emphasizes activities that are catalyzed within Northeastern Ontario, reflecting our unique geographic, cultural and demographic circumstances: Mining, Mineral Exploration, and Environmental Stewardship; Indigenous and Ally-Led Research; Rural, Northern and Occupational Health; and Interdisciplinary Studies are among some of the many areas of core research strengths.

Above all, as Laurentian goes forward, we must work hard to ensure our enduring relevance, our appeal to students and commitment to community, while maintaining a strong and sustainable foundation.

Fall Convocation

During the afternoon of October 30th, I was joined by our Dean's, the Provost, and a few others for the live streaming of Laurentian's Fall Convocation, the 118th Convocation in Laurentians 60 plus year history. Students and their families joined in online as we recognized and celebrated the 345 undergraduate and 132 graduate students receiving their degrees. Approximately 15% of these graduates also received a certificate of bilingualism - emphasizing the important contribution that Laurentian makes as a bilingual university in Northeastern Ontario. With this ceremony, the total number of Laurentian graduates now exceeds 68,500.

This is the legacy of Laurentian, as well as the promise for tomorrow. A degree from Laurentian delivers a promising future for its holder. The performance of our graduates in going on to successful careers in their fields of study matters. They reflect the strong academic curriculum of Laurentian's programs and appreciation of a Laurentian degree by employers. This strong performance does not occur overnight - and similarly it is not lost overnight.

On their behalf, I again thank everyone at Laurentian for the contribution that each individual makes every day in support of our students. Our 68,500 plus graduates are not only the legacy of the institution, they are the legacy of everyone in the Laurentian community.

Special Consultation Meeting for Senators with the NOUS Group

As you all know, NOUS is currently engaged in a comprehensive external governance and operational review of Laurentian University. They have scheduled meetings broadly across the university and have circulated surveys to the community. They have also already had the opportunity to meet with some senators. However, to ensure that Senators have a fulsome opportunity to participate in the process, NOUS is pleased to offer a Zoom meeting with all Senators on Tuesday November 23rd, 2021, at 2:30 pm. This will be an opportunity for faculty and student Senators to participate and provide feedback as to what works well with the Senate, what needs to change, and opportunities to make those changes happen. I'm looking forward to the results of this consultation and the eventual conclusions and recommendations NOUS brings forward. A Zoom link will be circulated to Senators in advance of the meeting.

COVID-19 Update

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of the University community to COVID-19 risk mitigation measures. Although our on-campus community has exceeded 99% full vaccination status, we must continue to be vigilant and follow health and safety guidance. It is the layering of health and safety measures such as masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and decreasing contacts, along with vaccination that all contribute to everyone's protection against COVID-19. These protective measures remain critically important given the rise in COVID-19 cases being reported in the City of Sudbury. On November 9, 2021, [Public Health Sudbury & Districts \(PHSD\) announced additional safety measures](#) related to the pandemic.

It is also critically important that all members of the Laurentian community remain home if they feel even mildly unwell and those attending campus complete the daily screening for symptoms of COVID-19. Rapid testing for members of the Laurentian community who are asymptomatic and PCR testing for persons who are symptomatic remain available on campus through [Health Services](#).

Laurentian is also actively participating in a wastewater testing program on campus. Results are shared with PHSD who will contact Laurentian if any markers indicative of COVID-19 are detected. If a member of the Laurentian University campus tests positive for COVID-19, PHSD will investigate and will communicate directly with any person identified as a potential close contact. For more information on active and closed COVID-19 cases associated with a person on the LU campus you can visit <https://laurentian.ca/COVID-19>

Fall Enrolment Update

Preliminary enrolment numbers for the end of October are now available and have continued to follow the trends we have seen throughout this Fall term. The uncertainty around Laurentian's status and the ongoing CCAA process was expected to impact planned Fall enrolments and was accounted for in Laurentian's preliminary projections. As of the end of October, enrolment numbers indicate that we will exceed our enrolment targets by approximately 400 headcount or 200 FTE students (7,988 headcount 6,038 FTE). These enrolments represent a -14% year-over-year decline in headcounts or a -15% year-over-year decline in FTEs.

Laurentian's proportion of students studying in French language degree programs is showing a positive trend and indicates it will increase for a fifth consecutive year resulting in more than 20% of the student population. In terms of headcount enrolments, the year-over-year trends show a decline of -14.6% for English programs and a -10.0% decline for French programs. In addition, Laurentian's online program offerings continue to have stronger enrolment trends overall (2,076 headcount) in comparison to our on-campus programs, with a year-over-year drop of only 3% following a strong increase last year. Final official registration numbers will be as of November 1st, and will be communicated following reporting to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities in December.

The approximately 8,000 individual students currently enrolled continue to place their trust in the academic programs, faculty members and the community that supports their education. I wish to recognize and thank everyone involved in recruiting and providing for Laurentians students for all of their efforts.

Student Recruitment Update

The recruitment efforts have already commenced with the virtual tours that were organized as a result of the commitment of more than 200 people from the Laurentian community, including professors, staff members, alumni, students, members of the deanship and administration. This is an ongoing and promising process for Laurentian. Indeed, recruitment is an opportunity to show our future students the quality and excellence of each of our programs in French and English as well as the uniqueness of our tri-cultural mandate in delivering post-secondary education. The effort of each of us, during this 2022-2023 recruitment period, reflects our commitment to ensure that Laurentian University continues its trajectory as a university of choice by and for students.

CCAA updates

Laurentian continues its work through the CCAA process. The focus over the past month has been to support the finalization of Real Estate Review, support the Operational and Governance review and to advance the review of claims filed as part of the claims process as well as maintain ongoing dialogues with stakeholders and responding to their requests.

(A reminder that our website dedicated to the CCAA proceedings can be accessed at: www.laurentianu.info and that the same for the Monitor can be accessed at: www.ey.com/ca/Laurentian)

Monthly Kudos

- The Advancement Office has been working with friends of the University to secure new funds to enhance the student experience, through creating scholarships and bursaries, supporting student initiatives and honouring the lives of loved ones. Post CCAA, new processes have been created for donors to support current students and initiatives.

Alumni are still interested in engaging with Laurentian. The Advancement Office has paired up with the Liaison team to engage Alumni as Ambassadors to recruit prospective students to join us at LU. Alumni are also actively planning celebrations for SPAD's 50th Anniversary next fall.

- Kudo's to the Centre for Research in Occupational Safety and Health who have developed a series of educational brochures, posters, and podcasts in English and French to promote COVID-19 vaccination and other COVID-19 risk mitigation measures as part of the #CommunityImmunity project. Anyone interested in materials to encourage confidence in COVID-19 vaccination can email crosstech@laurentian.ca or email Dr Sandra Dorman, CROSH Director (sdorman@laurentian.ca)
- Ana Tremblay is making a tremendous impact during her Laurentian student journey. As a fourth-year History student in the Faculty of Arts, Ana has embraced student life and what it means to make an impact in her community. As President of LU Pride, she brings an energy to her work advocating and organizing that is unparalleled. She also maintains a student position with the Student Success Centre in the role of Peer Advisor, where she supports students through orientation, registration, advising, peer academic support, and career opportunities through the Work Study program. Recently, Ana re-engaged planning for the Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP) event, serving as Chair of the student-led committee. LNAP helps link students to services and peer support to help them succeed. Thank you Ana for your impact on students and our community!

- Thank you to all who joined the United Nations x Student General Association (SGA) Restoration Trail and Recovery Garden grand opening. Words of congratulations were contributed by Dr. Jane Goodall, and the Hon. Bob Rae (UN Ambassador for Canada) acknowledging the importance of this research and community progress. Thank you to Dr. John Gunn, the SGA, I'AEF, and the many students and professors who all played an important role.
- Congratulations to Abbey Maillet of the Laurentian University Voyageurs, she was the gold medal winner of the OUA Rowing Championship that occurred in Welland, ON on Saturday, October 30th. The third-year Sport and Physical Education student, Maillet won the Women's Lightweight Single with a time of 8:49.30, 5 seconds ahead of her closest competitor. She then qualified for the national championships and earned herself a bronze medal in the competition. Yet another exceptional achievement from LU Rowing. Congratulations also to Dr. Schweinbenz for her passionate leadership of this team.
- Congratulations to Laurentian University Voyageur Golfer Conrad Naponse who qualified for the provincial championships. The Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation resident is also a third-year accounting student and role model for youth in his community. Conrad was the only Voyageur to qualify for the OUA championship.
- Congratulations to the researchers at Laurentian University's Vale Living with Lakes Centre who were part of a recently published paper in the prestigious science journal, Nature. The researchers collaborated with the University of Cambridge to study the effects of tent-covering caterpillars in Sudbury.
- Global Entrepreneurship week took place the week of November 8th and The Foundry, located in the Fielding Innovation Space, celebrated many of our graduates who are excelling as entrepreneurs. Those highlighted were: Randi Ray (Masters of Human Kinetics) Founder of Noojimo Health, Cameron Perdue (BBA) of Incapture, Kirk Petroski (BA, MBA) of Symbioticware, Vahid Kesmiri (Masters of Computer Science student) of Canary Subtech.