

## **President's Report to Senate October 2022**

As Laurentian comes increasingly closer to emergence from the CCAA process, it is time to turn our focus increasingly on the future - and the future of Laurentian is our students and their return to Laurentian. Already this fall we have seen positive trends in registration in some areas, and as Laurentian's future is secured upon exit from CCAA, this can only increase. Building on the success of the Ontario Universities Fair, this Saturday, October 22, 2022, Laurentian will be hosting our annual fall Open House. Prospective students and their families will be visiting campus between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. I encourage everyone to experience and contribute to the energy by joining guided campus tours, the academic and student services fair and drop in lectures. Complete details for the open house are available at [laurentian.ca/openhouse](http://laurentian.ca/openhouse).

### **Ontario Universities Fair 2022**

On October 1st and 2nd 2022, a Laurentian team of 81 students, alumni, staff, admin, and faculty participated in the annual Ontario Universities Fair (OUF) at the Metro-Toronto Convention Centre in downtown Toronto. The fair yielded positive results for Laurentian as we welcomed thousands of visitors to our 2,200-square-foot booth, refreshed and redesigned thanks to the Marketing Department. Over the weekend, we collected 5,063 prospective student email addresses, representing an increase over previous years.

This success was possible as a result of teamwork, dedication, and support from those attending. Two of our staff members in particular led these efforts. Marie-Lynne Michaud and the Marketing team who found our new booth vendor, organized the design, and ensured the booth was a cut above the rest. Danielle Yasko-Pellerin (Events and Communications Coordinator for Domestic Recruitment) and was responsible for organizing logistics associated with the event. Indeed, the entire team deserves a round of applause.

### **Funding for Francophone Programs**

Laurentian is currently exploring potential funds/grants for the Consortium National de la formation en santé (CNFS) and the Office of Francophone Affairs (OFA).

For the CNFS, discussions are underway between partner organizations to finalize a proposal for grants. Laurentian itself is hoping to secure more than \$7M in funding for program delivery and activities in connection with its next five-year plan.

As for the OFA, a first meeting was held to relaunch post-CCAA discussions with directors of French-language postsecondary programs. Several grant proposals were delayed throughout the precarious restructuring phase. Projects from fiscal year 2021-2022 that were carried over, those submitted for 2022-2023, and new projects put forth by the Province can now move forward. Laurentian could receive amounts up to \$6M for the current fiscal year:

- Maîtrise en éducation - \$700,000
- Destination Réussite - \$250,000
- Canadian Heritage - \$4.8M
- FSL Challenge Fund - forthcoming
- MHS/SHSM Education - forthcoming

### **CCAA Updates**

Laurentian is in the final stages of completing its CCAA restructuring and expects to emerge in the month of November. As was reported last month, the Plan of Arrangement that was presented at a meeting of creditors on September 14, 2022, was approved by the requisite majorities of creditors. Court approval of the Plan was obtained on October 5, 2022. The only step remaining is the implementation of the Plan, which will occur once various conditions have been satisfied. One of those conditions is finalizing the exit loan agreement with the Province of Ontario, which will provide Laurentian with a long-term loan facility of \$35 million and allow the DIP Facility that was obtained as part of the CCAA proceeding to be repaid in full.

Certain types of priority claims will be paid in full upon Plan Implementation. Claims of unsecured creditors will be paid over the next three years, as real estate transactions with the Province are completed.

The CCAA restructuring provided the University with an ability to carry on its operations and address the profound financial challenges that had developed over many years. Following emergence from the CCAA process, the University will still have a lot of work to do in order to make the type of ongoing changes to systems, processes and procedures that are required to ensure that it doesn't find itself in a similar situation in the future. That includes a significant investment in an operational transformation, governance, and a new strategic plan. Laurentian has committed to these steps under its Plan of Arrangement, and is ready to undertake them now that its financial sustainability has been established.

Laurentian will continue to work with the Province and MCU and all stakeholders as it charts a new course on a solid financial foundation.

### **Iran impact on students**

Like many across the world, we have been following the ongoing events unfolding in Iran, arising from the killing of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, and including attacks against those protesting her death.

Laurentian University extends our support and solidarity to our Iranian community members, many of whom have been present in the Atrium over the past two weeks raising awareness about the situation. I encourage all Laurentian community members to join in to support in affirming our shared commitment to human rights, and to work to ensure safety, equality and freedom for women across the world.

For our Laurentian students and colleagues directly affected by this conflict, there are supports available to assist, and we encourage you to reach out.

The [Equity, Diversity and Human Rights Office](#) is a confidential resource for all members of the Laurentian University community, including students, staff, and faculty. The EDHRO can assist with matters of discrimination, harassment, bullying, sexual harassment, sexual violence, accessibility and student rights and responsibilities.

The [Employee & Family Assistance Program](#) is available to staff and faculty.

In closing, this is the first President's Report in seemingly forever that does not include an update on the pandemic and safety measures being taken by the University. While the situation on campus is currently stable, we must not become complacent as we move towards winter and we

congregate increasingly indoors. The University and the Council of Ontario Universities continue to monitor the situation closely and Laurentian continues to work closely with Public Health, Sudbury and Districts to ensure we are following all guidance to ensure a safe environment for students, faculty and staff. As always, I encourage everyone to be up to date on vaccination, to protect yourself and those around you.

## **Kudos**

1. Congratulations to Maryam Pourmahdavi, PhD candidate of Natural Resource Engineering in Engineering Science at Laurentian University, who is the recipient of the prestigious Gordon M. Ritcey PhD award. This nationwide achievement in the hydrometallurgy section of Metallurgy and Materials Society of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (MetSoc) is an incredible accomplishment for Pourmahdavi, who is also a 2019 Ontario Trillium scholar and 2020 Parya Trillium scholar. This is the first time that a Laurentian student has been the recipient of this award.
2. The School of Sports Administration (SPAD) has a lot to be proud of as over 300 alumni and students came together for a full weekend of events during the SPAD 50th Anniversary. Events were headlined by a Fundraising Gala at the Liberty Grand in Toronto, which attracted graduates from all 50 years of the program's history. From CEOs of major corporations to current and former General Managers of professional sports teams, graduates were eager to reconnect with former classmates and professors. The celebration extended into Sudbury throughout the weekend, where graduates spent time volunteering at the Elgin Street Mission, leading a hockey equipment drive and making new connections at the many social events.
3. I would like to thank Dr. Masha Krupp and Dr. Alessia Pastre who joined University Advancement, the School of Education & Health along with student and faculty colleagues to formally announce the creation of the Raija Larisa Krupp Memorial Bursary. It shall be awarded on an annual basis to one undergraduate Social Work student who has demonstrated financial need. We appreciated their ongoing support.
4. I would like to share my enthusiasm for the groundbreaking Indigenous course that was offered at Laurentian University this September. This unique immersive 8-day course offered registered students a deep learning experience to new ways of knowing and being. The course, expected to be offered in future semesters, focuses on oral, participatory, and immersive language learning. Thank you to all who envisioned, and made possible, this new and important learning experience.
5. I would like to bring attention as well to the September 21st unveiling of the new Laurentian University logo sculpture, presented by the Students' General Association and Environmental Sustainability Committee. The logo represents the university community's commitment to the UN's decade of ecosystem restoration goals and the student's dedication to progressing as a campus dedicated to environmental health and sustainability.
6. As part of our ongoing commitment to student safety, Laurentian University is proud to have partnered with Cambrian College, Collège Boréal, the Greater Sudbury Police Service, and Sudbury and Area Victim Services to raise awareness on the importance of consent through a video launch. Members of the media were invited to attend the launch of the video that was made

possible by the Government of Ontario through the Proceeds of Crime Front-line Policing Grant. The video launch took place on September 22 in the Laurentian University Student Center. Thank you to all who attended and helped make this important video possible.

7. I would like to give my thanks to the Residence Life team, including RAs, SRAs, and student porters, who contribute positively to student experience on campus. On Sunday, October 2nd, about 175 Laurentian students participated in the annual Residence Life baseball tournament at which students in residence teamed with their floor mates in healthy competition, fostering community and wellness. Thanks especially to student Residence Life leaders Kiera Lawn, Miguel Da Costa Aguiar and Sean Baker for their commitment to this successful tournament. I understand that planning is already underway for the next popular Residence Life event, LU's Got Talent. We look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate our students.
8. Congratulations to Dr. Sara MacDonald who has been appointed Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Dr. MacDonald served in this role previously from 2013 to 2021. In 2021 and 2022, she served as Coordinator of Students Affairs for the Faculty of Arts.
9. Also in a new role is Laurentian men's basketball coach, Shawn Swords, who has taken a leave of absence this season to pursue the incredible opportunity of assistant coach with the Long Island Nets. Stepping in to lead the Voyageurs men's basketball team as coach on an interim basis will be Laurentian alum, former Voyageurs basketball player, and assistant coach, Georges Serresse. Best of luck to these individuals in their new positions.
10. On October 3rd to 7th, Laurentian's CareerHub hosted a successful Career Week. Thank you to all Student Success teams who helped make this offering possible. Events included engaging workshops, tips for resume building and interview skills, and networking opportunities with local Sudbury employers. Career Week was highly beneficial for our students.
11. Finally, Laurentian University recently celebrated over \$237,000 in Federal SSHRC grants to support research in social sciences and humanities. Congratulations to all hardworking individuals who received grants. Dr. Lea Tufford, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, received a 5-year Insight Grant. Dr. Tammy Gaber, Associate Professor and Director of the McEwen School of Architecture and Dr. Frantz Siméon, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work have each been awarded 2-year Insight Development Grants. Dr. Simon Laflamme, Full Professor in the School of Liberal Arts, has earned a 1-year Aid to Scholarly Journals Grant.