

Report of the President & Vice-Chancellor to Senate

October 21, 2025

Dear Senate colleagues,

The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) has announced its 2025 cohort of Fellows and College members, an honour that recognizes the country's most accomplished scholars, artists, and scientists. This cohort formally welcomes two members of the Laurentian community among the inductees: Dr. Linda Ambrose as Fellow to the RSC, and Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk to the College of New Scholars.

Election to the RSC is the highest honour an individual can achieve in Canadian intellectual life, with new Fellows and Scholars selected by their peers for making remarkable contributions to knowledge and to public life. While the distinction of Fellow is a lifetime honour for those who have reached the pinnacle of their career, the College recognizes the emerging generation of scholarly leaders, researchers, and artists—within 15 years of their doctoral studies or equivalent, for a seven-year term.

Dr. Linda Ambrose, a Full Professor within the School of Liberal Arts, recently retired after having dedicated more than thirty years to Laurentian University's department of History and to her students. An award-winning historian, she has earned an international reputation for her work on rural women and women's religious history. Her research focuses on gender studies and the history of Canadian women, particularly within contexts like the Women's Institutes and the Canadian Pentecostal movement. More recently, Ambrose's work has focused on women's resistance within patriarchal religious institutions. In recognition of her exceptional contributions, she was a recipient of the Laurentian University Teaching Excellence Award in 2005 and the Research Excellence Award in 2024. Ambrose is also the co-author of *Laurentian University: A History* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2010) a testament to her connection to the institution and her commitment to historical scholarship.

Dr. Nadia Mykytczuk is an innovator in the field of environmental microbiology with over two decades of experience. She is also the President and CEO of MIRARCO (Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation, and Applied Research Corporation) and serves as Executive Director of the Goodman School of Mines. Her work focuses on developing microbial solutions for mining-related challenges, with a particular emphasis on biomining and bioremediation. Mykytczuk's research is centered on how microorganisms can be used to recover critical minerals and remediate mine waste sites, transforming legacy environmental issues into sustainable opportunities. She currently holds the NOHFC Industrial Research Chair in Biomining and Bioremediation and has been recognized

for her leadership in promoting women in mining and fostering community engagement. In March 2025, she was honored with the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her dedication to community and service to Canada.

A public celebration will take place on the Laurentian University campus after the official induction ceremonies in Montreal in November.

Honouring Dr. Jane Goodall

The Laurentian University community was saddened to learn of the passing of Jane Goodall, the world-renowned conservationist, on October 1, 2025. As many of you know, Dr. Goodall had a close relationship with both Laurentian University and the Greater Sudbury region, whose re-greening efforts she often celebrated. She last visited Sudbury in May 2023 for the launch of “Jane Goodall: Reasons for Hope”, a new IMAX film produced for Science North, and in 2022 to take part in planting Greater Sudbury’s 10 millionth tree as part of the city’s multi-year re-greening efforts.

In 2021, Dr. Goodall visited Sudbury virtually to celebrate the opening of Laurentian’s UN Garden and Restoration Trail. Laurentian continues to benefit from both the Dr. Jane Goodall Research Fellowship in Conservation Biology and the Dr. Jane Goodall Scholarship, both launched in 2023.

Dr. Goodall’s impact on the world was profound, as it was on the history of our University. We are currently considering appropriate ways of recognizing this impact, perhaps in connection with Earth Day in April 2026.

Chancellor search

Laurentian University is beginning the process for choosing a new Chancellor, starting with populating the selection committee. The process will proceed in accordance with the *Procedures for the Appointment or Re-appointment of a Chancellor*.

Events

50th anniversary celebration of the Franco-Ontarian flag

September 25 was a significant day on campus as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag. A number of dignitaries were on campus for the event, including Minister Quinn, Minister Mulroney, Leader of the Opposition Marit Stiles, local MPPs Jamie West and France G  linas, local MP Viviane Lapointe, and French Language Services Commissioner Carl Bouchard. The day opened with speeches in the Parker Atrium, followed by a sacred fire in front of the building. In the afternoon, a pizza lunch was served in the AEF offices – complete with celebratory cupcakes! – followed by a free concert by the Bilingual Boys. Laurentian was also pleased to host hundreds of local students from Francophone high schools, who celebrated the flag in Founders’ Square.

Our thanks for this very successful event go out to the Association des   tudiantes et   tudiants Francophones (AEF), which planned the program and organized the event together with several units including the Bureau des affaires francophones, the Marketing Department, the President’s Office, Ancillary Services, and many others.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30 and in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which honours the victims and survivors of residential schools, Laurentian was pleased to open the new dedicated space on campus for the Maamwizing Indigenous Research Institute. Meaning ‘people collaborating together’ in Anishinaabe, Maamwizing

aims to promote collaboration among researchers and community partners and to better align Indigenous research initiatives with the needs of communities.

Laurentian also held a national symposium in observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which featured a keynote address from distinguished lawyer, advocate, member of the Kanehsatà:ke Mohawk Nation Dr. Kimberly Murray. The day began with a sacred fire and was followed by a presentation outlining the recommendations for Truth and Reconciliation developed by Laurentian University's Taskforce on the topic.

Launch of the Centre d'apprentissage des langues

On September 19, we launched the new space for the Centre d'apprentissage des language/Language Learning Centre. The Centre connects a diverse community of learners with French and English, promoting their acquisition and improvement within the University's bilingual and tricultural learning community, and offering innovative and high-quality language training.

20 Years of Graduate Science Communication at Laurentian and Science North

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Laurentian University's graduate programs in Science Communication, delivered in partnership with Science North, the first and only graduate degree of its kind in Canada. Since its launch in 2005, the program has trained more than 200 graduates who now work across the country and around the world, bridging the gap between science and society. The anniversary was marked on Friday, September 12, as the 20th graduating class presented their research findings at the annual Science Communication Research Symposium at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre.

Ontario Universities' Fair and Laurentian Open House

My thanks go out to those who helped make Laurentian University's participation in the Ontario Universities' Fair such a success, including the Marketing and Liaison teams as well as all Laurentian faculty, staff, and other members of our community who supported the Laurentian booth. Over 88,000 prospective students came through the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in downtown Toronto during the two-day event, and we look forward to welcoming as many of them as possible to campus next September.

Until then, we look forward to our own Fall Open House, which will take place on October 25. This is another important occasion for us to welcome local students onto campus and show them why Laurentian is the place they need to be. I encourage you all to get involved in supporting this critical recruitment event in any way you can.

Convocation

Fall Convocation will take place on Saturday, November 1. I welcome all staff and faculty members to become involved with this event as we celebrate our students and their achievements.

Treaty Week

Treaty Recognition Week takes place from November 3-8. This annual event honours the importance of Treaties and helps members of the Laurentian University community learn more about Treaty rights and relationships. By learning more about our collective Treaty rights and obligations, we can create greater understanding and nurture relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

More details about specific events during Treaty Week will be announced soon.

Congratulations to our Snobots!

Laurentian University's Snobots team competed in August at the FIRA Roboworld Cup 2025, held in Daegu, South Korea. The team brought home many awards, including:

- Adult-size category: 3rd overall in the All-Round event, 3rd in Manipulation (archery and basketball), 5th in Hybrid (mini-DRC - DARPA Robotics Challenge), and 3rd in Mobility (sprint, marathon, and obstacle run);
- Kid-size category: 5th overall in the All-Round event, 2nd in soccer, 4th in archery, 5th in mini-DRC, and 6th in sprint.

Another highlight of the team's success was their showing at the FIRA World Summit, an international conference held in conjunction with the FIRA World Cup to share research and ideas in artificial intelligence and robotics.

The Snobots are trained by a multidisciplinary research group within the University's Bharti School of Engineering and Computer Science's Intelligent Mobile Robotics Lab (LIMRL). The LIMRL's mission is to develop intelligent mobile robotic systems that can perceive, decide, and act in real-world environments. Through hands-on learning in programming, control systems, and robot design, students get valuable opportunities to engage in meaningful research, collaborating on projects that bridge theoretical development with real-world applications.

Lynn Wells
President & Vice-Chancellor