

Report of the President & Vice-Chancellor to Senate

December 9, 2025

Dear Senate colleagues,

On December 2, we were proud to announce a \$2 million gift from the Joyce Family Foundation. The newly established Joyce Family Foundation Endowment will provide renewable, transformational bursaries to undergraduate students from Northern Ontario who demonstrate financial need and resilience in overcoming barriers to education.

Established by renowned Canadian entrepreneur Ronald V. Joyce, the Joyce Family Foundation is dedicated to improving the well-being of children and youth by providing opportunities that empower them to succeed. Best known for his role in building the Tim Hortons franchise, Joyce's legacy of philanthropy continues to make an impact on education and communities across Canada. The bursary program at Laurentian University reflects this mission and will help create new opportunities for Northern Ontario youth to thrive.

Eligible students must be full-time undergraduates entering the first year of any program at Laurentian University who have graduated from a high school in Northern Ontario within the last three years, and be Canadian citizens. Each bursary will be valued between \$6,500 and \$8,000 annually, renewable for up to four years of study, provided the student maintains satisfactory academic standing.

Campus visit by Minister Tim Hodgson

On November 12, Laurentian was pleased to welcome to campus Minister Tim Hodgson, federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, along with MP Viviane Lapointe, Mayor Paul Lefebvre, and industry leaders to discuss the role that Laurentian researchers can play and are already playing in helping Canada seize the current moment.

The critical minerals and mining industry is a significant driver of Ontario's economy, and Northern Ontario is especially well positioned to capitalize on growing demand for critical minerals. In addition to being required for many renewable and clean energy technologies, including batteries for electrification, critical minerals support medical technologies and advanced manufacturing. Access to domestic critical minerals supply chains are also becoming increasingly vital to national strategic interests and key to enhancing global security and growing partnerships with international allies.

Increasing demand for critical minerals is accelerating labour shortages in the field. In 2023, one in every five workers in Canada's mining sector was over the age of 55. There are key roles for Laurentian University to play in the development of tomorrow's mining workforce:

- In conducting outreach to youth to raise awareness about mining disciplines and careers in mining;
- In educating undergraduate and graduate students in the broad range of mining related fields, who will go on to work in the sector, to lead relevant research initiatives, and to develop the innovations that will power the industry into the future; and
- In training or re-training working professionals who are seeking careers in mining or who are looking to build their skills to advance their mining careers.

This context presents Laurentian University with an opportunity to shape highly skilled graduates across the mining cycle with expertise in mining engineering, mineral exploration, Indigenous relations and social license, occupational health and safety, environmental sustainability.

Laurentian University also has been a leader in research, advancing mineral exploration and mining science and engineering, and restoration of mining impacted environments for over 60 years. Given its location in one of the largest mining regions in the world, scientific advances made at Laurentian University are often exported around the world. Researchers at Laurentian University are advancing development of critical minerals deposits and innovative extraction methods to recover metals with environmentally sustainable technologies. Artificial intelligence is being leveraged to explore and mine datasets, reduce exploration risk, optimize equipment utilization and advance ground control innovations. With expertise in geoscience, mining, social sciences, humanities, business and Indigenous relations, Laurentian University is also positioned to be a leader in research, advancing social license to operate and benefit sharing agreements.

To make clear the value Laurentian University can add in this area, we are undertaking the development of a Critical Minerals and Mining Strategy, which will lay out the University's vision to develop its role as Canada's Mining University in a time of geopolitical change and uncertainty, reflecting our commitment to teaching and learning, research and innovation, and our unique role as a bilingual and tricultural leader in Northern Ontario. This plan will set priorities to partner with government, industry, and other partners to grow Ontario's mining industry and to help address the challenges it faces by building on traditional areas of strength for Laurentian University.

Consultation has been taking place over recent weeks, including consultation with staff and faculty through a survey and during meetings held earlier in December.

Events and congratulations

Many thanks to those who helped showcase Laurentian's unparalleled student experience at the Student Life Expo in Toronto on November 15. The event attracted over 6,000 participants, and Laurentian's booth was constantly abuzz with activity.

Many thanks to all staff and faculty members who took part in the City's Santa Claus parade. Laurentian was represented by over 60 people, which made for a great community feel. Thanks as well to those many people who worked hard in the background to prepare the event, including those who made Laurentian's float.

Finally, mark your calendars for the following events:

- On January 14, the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its Post-Secondary Panel. I look forward to discussing the opportunities and challenges facing the sector together with the Presidents of Collège Boréal, Cambrian College, and NOSM U.
- Saturday, January 31 is the basketball double-header at the Sudbury Arena, with games at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Come cheer on your Voyageurs!

- In February, Team Homan and Laurentian's own Tracy Fleury will be heading to the Olympic Winter Games in Milan-Cortina.
- The annual Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference is coming up in March in Toronto, with Laurentian hosting its regular breakfast reception on March 2.

Best wishes for the holiday season

In closing, I want to thank all members of the Laurentian University community for their hard work and dedication throughout the Fall term. As the holiday season approaches, I hope you all find time to rest, connect with loved ones, and to enjoy the coming winter weather.

The University will observe its annual holiday closure from December 22 to January 1, and will re-open on January 2. I look forward to seeing you all in 2026!

Sincerely,

Lynn Wells
President & Vice-Chancellor