

## **Report of the President & Vice-Chancellor to Senate**

November 18, 2025

Dear Senate colleagues,

I am pleased to recognize Dr. Meng Cheng Lau of the Bharti School of Engineering and Computer Science for his appointment to a IAMGOLD Innovation Fellowship. The Innovation Fellowship will help to foster Laurentian's expanding entrepreneurial culture by supporting emerging areas of innovation, including engagement in STEM through hands-on robotics education and programming. The Fellow will also mentor students and other highly qualified personnel as they develop critical skills in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Meng Cheng Lau is an Assistant Professor at Laurentian and the Director of the Laurentian Intelligent Mobile Robotics Lab (LIMRL), where he leads research in mobile and humanoid robotics, machine learning, and computer vision. As faculty advisor of the LU Snobots humanoid robotics team, he has helped students achieve international recognitions, including Best Paper awards and podium finishes at the FIRA RoboWorld Cup.

As an IAMGOLD Innovation Fellow, Dr. Lau will advance a project that uses humanoid robotics to expand youth engagement in STEM, innovation, and entrepreneurship. By integrating hands-on robotics education with programming in the Jim Fielding Innovation and Commercialization Space, the project will cultivate creativity, applied problem-solving, and early innovation skills among Laurentian students and Northern Ontario communities, including underrepresented and Indigenous youth. Through outreach activities, demonstrations, and mentorship, the fellowship will help demystify robotics, strengthen regional innovation capacity, and inspire the next generation of Northern change-makers.

### **Bell Mansion**

The sale of the Bell Mansion is now complete, with the new owner having taken possession of the historic Sudbury property on November 1, 2025. Multiple offers were received after a short listing time, and the property at 251 John Street was sold for \$1.25M. The proceeds from this sale will be solely used to support the ongoing renewal of Laurentian University's facilities.

The purchaser, Devla Properties Inc, is owned and operated by local developer Peter Nault, who is well embedded in the Greater Sudbury community. The Bell Mansion has long stood as a recognizable part of Sudbury's architectural heritage. Laurentian University is privileged to have played a part in that history.

We extend our gratitude to all who have contributed to the stewardship and care of the Bell Mansion throughout its history. We would also like to thank the Art Gallery of Sudbury for their collaboration and partnership during their occupancy of the building.

### **ORS Name change**

Please note that the Office of Research Services (ORS) has been approved to change its name to the Office of Research and Innovation Services (ORIS), in recognition of the full scope of its evolving mandate. You will see this new name reflected in communications and branding in the weeks to come.

### **Chancellor search**

In October, Laurentian University officially began the search for its next Chancellor. This prestigious role carries the honour of acting as the ceremonial and titular head of the University, supporting advocacy, advancement activities and national recognition efforts.

The Chancellor is a volunteer position, appointed by the Board of Governors with the Senate's endorsement, with a term of five years, renewable once, for a maximum of two successive terms. The selection process will be overseen by a joint committee of faculty, students, staff, Indigenous representatives, and governance leaders to ensure broad community input in the selection of an exceptional candidate who embodies the University's values and commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and our bilingual and tri-cultural mandate.

The Chancellor Selection Committee is inviting nominations of distinguished individuals who can serve as a respected ambassador and an inspiring representative of Laurentian University and Sudbury at the provincial, national, and international levels. More information is available on the [Chancellor search website](#).

I invite all members of the University community to consider getting involved with the process and to submit names of potential candidates.

### **Events**

Many thanks to all students, staff, and faculty members who helped to make our **Fall Open House** a resounding success. With each year since CCAA, the number of students who visit Laurentian and identify an interest in joining us next year increases, and this year is no exception. This is a testament to the resilience of our institution and to the hard work of all members of the University community who work to provide an unparalleled educational and student experience. Mark your calendars now for our Spring Open House, which will take place on March 21.

Thanks too to those who made our **Fall Convocation** ceremony possible. This is an important event signaling a momentous achievement in the lives of our students. It is always a highlight of my year to celebrate this moment with our students and their families.

**Treaty Week** took place from November 3 to 7. This year, Treaty Week was hosted by Robinson Huron Waawiindamaagewin, in partnership with Laurentian University and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, with events taking place in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. 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.

Sudbury Indie Cinema and Laurentian's Outdoor Adventure Leadership Programme will be hosting the fifth edition of **SOAR Film Fest**, running November 13 to November 16 in Uptown Sudbury. This annual celebration of outdoor wilderness adventure film is supported by keen Northern Ontario wilderness-lovers, adventure filmmakers from around the world, patrons, generous sponsors and government partners. SOAR Film Fest brings to Northeastern Ontario the best and latest in adventure film and wilderness travel, from local to international, from paddling to mountaineering, from freeriding to wildlife preservation.

Finally, Laurentian will be participating in the local Santa Claus parade on November 22. Volunteers are currently being recruited from among staff and faculty who are interested in representing the University at the event.

Lynn Wells  
President & Vice-Chancellor