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Report of the President & Vice-Chancellor to Senate
October 20, 2026

Dear Senate colleagues,

It may only be October, but recruitment activities are already in full swing for the 2027-28 academic year. The Laurentian team attended the Ontario Universities Fair (OUF) on September 26 and 27 in Toronto, an annual event which welcomes tens of thousands of prospective students. OUF is an enormous undertaking, and I want to thank the many staff members around the University who work to make the event a success, including the teams in the Registrar's Office, Marketing, Student Services, and many others. The spirit at the Laurentian booth was electric, and everyone present showed their passion for the University. The faculty contingent in Toronto was also especially strong this year, and I want to thank the many faculty members who made the trip to Toronto to engage with students and their families.

A number of other recruitment activities also took place in September. For example, on September 23 the Laurentian campus hosted Vie de campus, a new event that brings local bilingual and francophone students together to meet with institutions that offer post-secondary programming in French. The teams in Marketing, the Registrar's Office, and the Bureau des affaires francophones made sure that Laurentian's francophone spirit was on full display, and prospective students were welcomed on campus later that evening as well for a concert by local band LGS at the Alphonse-Raymond theatre.

Recruitment activities will continue with Fall Open House on October 24, and I encourage all of you who can to volunteer for the event. The Provost and I will also be visiting local high schools to meet with principals, teachers, guidance counsellors, and students in both English and French programs to build these bridges and share with them everything that Laurentian has to offer.

Finally, Fall Convocation will be taking place on November 7 in the Fraser Auditorium with three ceremonies to honour our graduates. I invite you all to join me in this important moment of celebration of our students and recognition of their achievements.

Franco-Ontarian Flag Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Taking place within a week of each other, commemorations on September 25 and 30 provide an opportunity for the University community to live out the meaning of our institution's bilingual and tricultural mandate.

September 25 was the 51st anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag, an important day of celebration for our francophone students, staff, and faculty. A number of events took place, including a movie screening on September 22 and the LGS concert mentioned above on September 23. The week closed with a flag-raising ceremony, which was followed by celebrations on campus.

Similarly, events on September 30 provided an opportunity for the University community to learn about and reflect on our country's relationship with Indigenous peoples. Programming highlights included a sacred fire; a keynote address by best-selling author, educator, and artist Dr. Jenny Kay Dupuis; presentations by Jason Nakogee and Dr. Candace Brunette-Debassige; and a special ceremony honouring Anishinaabe education leader Grace Fox.

The week closed on October 7 with a special session with guest speaker Dr. Alika Lafontaine, who delivered an address inspired by the insights behind his book *The Outrage Cure*, which explores how emotional turbulence emerges, why it escalates, and what it signals about the health of relationships and systems.

Roxanne D. Brown lecture

On September 24, Laurentian was pleased to welcome Roxanne D. Brown, the 10th International President of the United Steelworkers (USW), who delivered a lecture as part of the Dr. Leo Gerard Lecture Series on Occupational Health and Safety. Many thanks to colleagues in CROSH, in Advancement, and to all others who made the event possible.

Rachel Prudhomme endows bursary for women in Engineering

At the Laurentian University Women in Engineering Student Networking Mixer on September 17, Laurentian announced a new gift from alumna, former faculty member, and current Board of Governors members Rachel Prudhomme. The newly established bursary is designed to remove financial barriers for women pursuing engineering degrees while recognizing active student leadership and community involvement. Prudhomme holds a historic place in Laurentian's history as the first woman to graduate from the University's Mining Engineering program and the first woman to teach full-time in Laurentian's Faculty of Science, Engineering and Architecture.

Research Excellence Awards Nominations

The Office of the Vice-President, Research is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2026-27 Laurentian University Research Excellence Award. This award recognizes full-time faculty members who have demonstrated outstanding performance in research. The award takes the form of a stipend of $15,000, which can be deferred until the recipient is on sabbatical and can either be added to the recipient's salary or paid as a sabbatical research grant.

Eligibility criteria and procedures for application are available online. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, December 16 at 4 PM.

Minerals and Mining Strategy Implementation Forum and Fireside Chat

On October 7, Laurentian hosted the first Implementation Forum for the Minerals and Mining Strategy, an event attended by over 100 dignitaries and industry partners. This was an opportunity to review the objectives of the Strategy and highlight recent collaborations and successes, with a mind to building new relationships and deepening existing ones. Remarks were delivered by special guest Tony Makuch, CEO of Discovery Silver, as well as by a selection of students showcased their work and experiences. The event also included a student co-op and career fair where both internal and external partners promoted employment opportunities.

The Implementation Forum was followed the next day by a fireside chat featuring Gimaa Craig Nootchtai, Chief, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek; Chief Larry Roque, Wahnapitae First Nation; Mario Grossi, CEO, Technica Mining; and Gianni Grossi, CEO, Anmar, who discussed ADLP, a Sudbury-based joint venture between the two First Nations and the two mining contractors, in which the First Nations are majority owners. Discussion explored how the partnership came together, what genuine and equitable partnership means to each of its leaders, and how

this model can help improve relationships between the mining industry and Indigenous land rights holders on mining projects.

Update on Listening Tour implementation

In September, my office released a call for nominations to participate in the President's Advisory Committee on Culture and Climate, whose creation was one of the recommendations emerging from my Listening Tour. The Committee, which will include participation from students, staff, faculty members, and administration, will work to ensure that the climate and culture on Laurentian's campus support the success of the University's mission and strategic direction. I hope to constitute the Committee in the coming weeks and begin meeting before the end of the term.

As we get ready to launch the budget process for the upcoming year, Financial Services will also be implementing new measures to help increase our internal capacity in this regard by offering budget and financial literacy training for School Directors. This session will focus on such topics as interpreting financial data, reporting variances, and identifying budget risks throughout the fiscal year.

Transformation update

The Transformation Program is a large-scale initiative whose work is broken down into 27 sub-workstreams, 146 distinct projects, and over 3,100+ tasks supporting 269 core deliverables. As the University's Transformation program continues to sit at approximately 50% of the project deliverables now complete, some of the key highlights from recent months include:

- Registration Services and Student Affairs stream
    - *Fees Modernization*: Reviewed 8 key fee-related processes to identify opportunities for standardization, automation, and reduced administrative effort across Fees and Finance. Multiple improvements have already been implemented, collectively saving 1,000 hours of manual effort annually. Additional requirements have been identified and will continue to be implemented to further streamline and automate these processes.
    - *Ancillary and Compulsory Fees*: This project focuses on transitioning from the current fee structure, which combines flat rates for full-time students and per-credit rates for part-time students, to a consistent per-credit compulsory fee model. The current focus is on finalizing decisions around full-time and part-time student definitions, associated service access, and the applicable fee structure. Once these decisions are confirmed, the rate-table and business requirements will be finalized and provided to IT for development.
    - *Ministry Reporting*: The Ministry Reporting project focuses on improving the accuracy and efficiency of regulatory reporting by reducing recurring errors and manual effort associated with preparing Ministry submissions. The current-state assessment and requirements have been completed, and IT has completed development and pre-validation testing. The business User Acceptance Testing (UAT) is planned to begin by the end of September, followed by resolution of identified issues and preparation for implementation.
    - *Degree Completion*: The Degree Completion project focuses on streamlining the graduation and degree completion process, reducing manual activities and improving the accuracy and visibility of student eligibility and better student experience. The current-state assessment has been completed and key business requirements have been identified. The next step is to work with IT to review the requirements and develop an implementation plan.
    - *Student Relationship Management (SRM)*: SRM remains the primary institutional priority, with confirmed alignment across Academic and Finance & Administration portfolios. The SRM Program is focused on improving and standardizing the student lifecycle through streamlined processes, automation, and better communications.

- Human Resources stream:
    - *Recruitment*: The team has finalized the future-state requirements for job postings and updated the hiring requisition process to include compensation data.

    - *Position Change Process*: The team has successfully mapped the complex position change and status change processes. This clarity is essential for the future HR Service Delivery system.
    - *Job Architecture*: The team has initiated the Job architecture project to define all university functions. This project will help the HR team to establish the framework required to systemize future people's processes.

- *Financial Services*:
    - *Budgeting (Axiom)*: Phase 3 of the training is underway and we have received good feedback on the system and training. We recently completed enhancements to expedite entering bulk salary changes, and provide a five-year rolling forecast. These should both be live before budget holders begin using the new budgeting system for 2027-2028 planning.
    - *Procure-to-Pay*: The working teams are heading into User Acceptance Testing planning for the end of September. The testing will center around eprocurement, invoicing, and enabled suppliers. The digital capture module is being initiated in September with a planned December completion date.

- Information Technology:
    - The IT Department has achieved a significant milestone by completing 100% (25 out of 25) of its planned workstream deliverables. Key efforts across all capabilities have now been transitioned into post-implementation operationalization, governance alignment, and continuous service delivery enhancement.

- Policy Development & Governance Compliance:
    - *Research Administration & Grant Management:* The Grants Modernization program is an institutional transformation effort designed to optimize research administration, streamline grant workflows, and modernize software capabilities for university research operations The project is currently in its formal procurement stage to select an enterprise vendor partner before moving into full platform implementation. The new vendor solution will replace the existing platform, ROMEO, which is end-of-life.
    - *Records & Information Management (RIM):* The Records & Information Management (RIM) initiative is targeted to establish systemic management of institutional records to ensure regulatory compliance, information security, and long-term data preservation. The initiative will include M-Files implementation, which is a technology platform to support RIM practices.

Update on senior leadership appointments and re-appointments
The search for the University's next Provost and Vice-President, Academic is currently underway, with the support of the search firm KBRS. The position description was posted for applications in mid-August and first-round interviews took place at the end of September. A consultation with Senate on the recommended candidate is scheduled for the October Senate meeting.

Finally, a call for nominations went out recently for faculty members willing to sit on the selection committee for the next Dean of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Architecture. I encourage you to put your name forward if you are interested.

Reach out and share your news!
If you have news, achievements, or other successes that you would like to share with the University community, please reach out to communications@laurentian.ca to discuss options.

The Communications department is also available to support researchers who would like to share their expertise with the media. Please reach out to communications@laurentian.ca to learn more about this possibility as well.

Sincerely,

Lynn Wells
President & Vice-Chancellor