

Laurier sole university looking to build campus in Milton: Province

University proposal review currently underway

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Wilfrid Laurier University's longtime dream to construct a post-secondary institution in Milton has taken another step closer to reality. The post-secondary institution, in partnership with Conestoga College, was the sole

applicant that responded to the Province's recent call for formal expressions of interest to construct a campus in Milton.

Applications were also sought for a Brampton campus, which garnered a response from Ryerson University, in partnership with Sheridan College.

"We have a pretty exciting vision of what both of these places will be," said Deb Matthews, minister of advanced education and skills development. "Now, we're reviewing the proposals and we'll soon get to work with

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Deb Matthews

Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development

those partners to make these a reality." Each location is expected to accommodate 1,000 students within two to five years of opening. Between the two municipalities, the government plans to spend \$180 million. A press release from the Province indicates the government expects Ontario universities to demonstrate strong partnerships with colleges, as well as local communities, business and other institutions.

Focus on STEAM

The schools will focus on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM), and offer experiential learning opportunities. The Province will now consider the submis-

sion from Laurier, which will work closely with ministry staff to fully develop its plans through an invitational call for proposals due in July.

The "successful proponent" will be announced in the fall.

Education Village

The Town has been working to establish a post-secondary site in Milton for many years, and has already laid out plans for the MEV — a 400-acre integrated neighbourhood that will host a university campus, the Mattamy National Cycling Centre, the MEV Innovation Centre, an integrated transit hub, student and residential housing, along with retail and commercial services.

Milton council recently passed a motion reiterating its previous endorsement of Laurier's submission to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development for the university.

The resolution also granted Milton CAO Bill Mann the authority to promote Laurier's plans to the Province in any manner necessary, and made way for an extension of the memorandum of understanding previously signed by the town and Laurier.

— with files from TorStar News Service

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