

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



## **Montreal students turn \$100,000 into \$1.3 million in just 11 weeks**

*Laurier's secondary school stock competition gives students a chance to trade on the TSE*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Sandy Rung**  
**Manager, Business & Economics Teaching Aids**  
**(519) 884-0710, ext. 6581**

**or Michael Strickland**  
**Media Relations Officer**  
**(519) 884-0710, ext. 3070**

WATERLOO — There are few professional stock traders who can boast they turned \$100,000 into \$1.3-million in less than three months, but it's a claim that can be made by a group of students from Montreal's Loyola High School. In just 11 weeks, Giancarlo Farinacci, Anthony Di Re, Parnell Adam, Justin Gombe and Kirk Gaudreau grew their imaginary portfolio into one worth \$1,350,115 and earned first place in the Wilfrid Laurier University National Secondary School Stock Market Competition.

The team of Montreal students beat out nearly 700 other teams from 138 schools across Canada by trading almost entirely in Nortel Networks and BCE options. Teams from Loyola High School also took the second- and third-place spots in their region. (Francis Scardera, the teams' advising teacher, can be reached at (514) 486-1101.)

"It's highly unusual for teams to pass the million-dollar mark in this competition, but we had two teams achieve it this time around," said Sandy Rung, Laurier's stock competition manager. "The options market was very strong this fall and all of the students benefited from it."

For their efforts the Montreal students will receive \$500 cash and an all-expense-paid trip in June to the awards dinner at the Toronto Stock Exchange, which sponsors the competition. Regional winners receive \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. All Ontario winners are also invited to the awards dinner.

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The Canadian regional winners are:

**Western Canada** – Aaron Turner, Garry Bhuller, Daniel Coles, Keegan Gemmill and Peter Harris of Ecole Mission Secondary School in Mission, British Columbia won with a portfolio of \$503,106. The advising teacher, Ernest Abrams, can be reached at (604) 826-7191.

**North and East Ontario** – Natalie Briand and Liza McMillan of Timmins High and Vocational School finished with a portfolio value of \$316,922. Advising teacher, Bill Costiniuk, can be reached at (705) 360-1411.

**GTA Region, Ontario** – Thornlea Secondary School students Noah Manly, Ken Polak, Marcus Lee and Mike Tolensky of Thornhill finished second in the country with a portfolio value of \$1,001,415. Advising teacher, Paul Stephenson, can be reached at (905) 889-9696 ext. 102.

**Toronto Area, Ontario** – Lone investor Dason Cheung of Upper Canada College in Toronto finished with a portfolio value of \$747,606. Advising teacher, Mike Abdelnour, can be reached at (416) 488-1125 ext. 3321.

**South and West Ontario** – Cardinal Carter Secondary School students Gary Toupin and Matt Sarkis of Leamington finished with a portfolio value of \$375,277. Advising teacher, Frank Spadini, can be reached at (519) 322-2804 ext. 1170.

**Eastern Canada** – Loyola High School students Mark Mastromonaco, Elie Dagher, Daniel Sosa, Chris O'Brien and Alex Grosse of Montreal finished with a portfolio value of \$234,247. Advising teacher, Francis Scardera, can be reached at (514) 486-1101 ext. 640.

Operating since 1972, Laurier's national secondary school stock market competitions run twice each year and teach secondary school students about investing and investment strategies. Participants monitor their holding choices, submit trade orders online and receive daily updates on their holdings from the competition's Web site [<http://invest.wlu.ca>]. Wilfrid Laurier University also runs national competitions for university undergraduate and college students, and recently launched national competitions for MBA candidates.