

# NEWS RELEASE

## Wilfrid Laurier University



### **Laurier explores opportunity to create a university campus in Milton**

**For Immediate Release**

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MILTON, ON. — Wilfrid Laurier University has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Milton to explore the possibility of establishing a university campus on 150 acres of land on the southwest side of the community, adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment.

The memorandum outlines the intention of both parties to work together on a shared vision of bringing a vibrant and forward-looking university campus to Milton, the fastest-growing municipality in Canada according to population data released last year by Statistics Canada.

“Laurier is excited to join with the Town of Milton in exploring this significant opportunity to design a brand-new university campus from the ground up,” said Dr. Max Blouw, president and vice-chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University.

“University demand is expected to continue growing in Ontario, fueled in part by population growth in the Greater Toronto Area,” Blouw said. “Milton is therefore an excellent location for a university campus, and Laurier — with our success developing satellite campuses in Brantford, Kitchener and downtown Toronto — is an experienced university partner.”

The memorandum of understanding enables Laurier and the Town of Milton to work together to resolve land-planning issues and to pursue possible sources of funding over a three-year period. It does not include any financial commitments at this time but rather outlines the basis upon which the parties intend to proceed.

“I am delighted that we have been able to work so closely with Laurier and I look forward to making this dream a reality,” said Cindy Lunau, Acting Mayor for the Town of Milton.

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“We have been working with Laurier for the past several months and we’re very excited by the creativity and flexibility they’ve shown throughout the process,” said Mario Belvedere, chief administrative officer of the Town of Milton.

“Laurier has had tremendous success with its Brantford campus and operating a multi-campus university,” Belvedere added. “Also, Dr. Blouw has significant experience with the University of Northern British Columbia in building a university right from a greenfield site, and we believe this bodes very well for Milton. ”

Blouw stated: “Laurier recognizes the importance of responding to the demand for extra post-secondary seats in Ontario. This initiative represents a way in which we can be part of such a response while retaining the small and intimate atmosphere of our Waterloo and Brantford campuses and remaining true to Laurier’s core values.”