

NEWS RELEASE

**Wilfrid Laurier
University**



Laurier stays in top five of key categories of Maclean's survey *Greatest gains found in categories that show commitment to student needs*

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WATERLOO – Despite recording one of the country's largest increases in student enrolment, Wilfrid Laurier University has again finished in the top five of some of the most important categories of the *Maclean's* ranking of Canadian universities.

The annual ranking issue, due on newsstands tomorrow, reveals that Laurier has maintained its fifth place overall position among primarily undergraduate universities and has again captured a top-five position in each of the four areas of the reputational survey. For the eighth year in a row, Laurier has also attracted the largest proportion – 95.2 per cent – of first-year students with a high-school average of 75 per cent or above. And their combined entering average of 82.7 per cent was second nationally only to Mount Allison.

Laurier's president was pleased, though not surprised, with the results.

"The numbers confirm what we already know and are proud of – Laurier has a reputation for offering an excellent education to some of the country's brightest young people," explained Laurier president and vice-chancellor Bob Rosehart. "It's the same message we get when we look at other numbers. Provincial performance indicators, for example, show that a Laurier graduate is more likely to find work within six months than is any other Ontario graduate."

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"If there's a surprise here," he continued, "it's a pleasant one. We've managed to maintain our position while taking in more students than other universities in the fall of 1998."

The numbers also show how Laurier is committing more resources to those students. While most of the numbers changed very little from one year to the next, Laurier gained ground in categories related to student support. The University climbed from fifth to first place in the category that measures scholarships and bursaries as a percentage of the overall budget. In student services as a percentage of budget, Laurier climbed from 14th to seventh place.