

# NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier  
University



**Laurier among top five in key categories of 1998 *Maclean's* survey**  
*Magazine showcases Laurier's reputation and the strength of the University's student body*

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WATERLOO — Wilfrid Laurier University has again finished among the top five in several important categories of the *Maclean's* annual ranking of Canadian universities. Laurier held its fifth place in the overall ranking of primarily undergraduate universities, captured a top-five spot in each of the four areas of the magazine's reputation survey, and took first and second place in the two categories that rate the quality of students entering university.

For the seventh consecutive year, the University attracted the largest proportion of first-year students with a secondary school average of 75 per cent or more; 94.6 per cent of Laurier's first-year students finished high school with an average above 75 percent. Their combined average entering grade of 83.2 per cent was second only to Mount Allison.

Laurier president Bob Rosehart welcomed the new results.

"One of the points we always stress is that Laurier is home to some of the brightest young minds in the country," said Rosehart. "These numbers support what people here already know. And the reputational survey certainly suggests that people across the country are recognizing the exceptional quality of Laurier's student body."

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Laurier ranked number four in the reputational survey and placed third or fourth in the four subsections of this category. *Maclean's* asked more than 3,500 high-school guidance counsellors, academic administrators and corporate CEOs across the country to comment on each universities reputation in four categories, and then listed the top five in each area. Laurier again placed third in the 'highest quality' subsection, moved up from fourth to third in 'most innovative,' held fourth in 'leaders of tomorrow' and again took fourth in 'best overall.'

The University also made gains in the category that ranks how much funding a university receives for medical and science research. Though it has no medical programs, the strength of Laurier's science programs moved the University up from 14<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> place. Laurier also maintained its national ranking among the top five universities in the category that measures the percentage of faculty holding social science and humanities research grants.

University officials were pleased that Laurier could maintain its position of fifth overall, while most other Ontario universities declined in the rankings.

"Given that the Harris government seems content with Ontario's last place position in terms of the grants provided per student, it was only a matter of time before our universities lost ground to the other provinces," explained Arthur Stephen, vice-president: university advancement. "What's important to us is that even with this added burden, we're still attracting the country's brightest minds and we're maintaining our reputation as a quality institution."

The *Maclean's* eighth annual ranking of Canadian universities goes on sale on Monday, November 16, 1998.