

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Laurier students pledge \$8.5 million to upcoming campaign *Including other recent pledges, the total donation climbs above \$11 million*

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – Students are giving Wilfrid Laurier University the largest donation in the university's 100-year history. Undergraduate student leaders have just renewed an agreement with Laurier that will include a donation of close to \$8.5 million between now and the university's centennial in 2011.

The university's agreement with the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) renews a student levy first introduced in 1994. Students will pay \$9.17 per half credit course to a maximum of \$36.68 for the first year of the agreement. The fee will be adjusted annually to reflect cost-of-living increases.

Given projected growth in student enrolment, the university and student leaders believe the agreement will generate \$8.5 million. This is the largest donation Laurier has ever received and it is considered a pacesetter for a major fundraising campaign now being planned.

"This is just one more example of how students at Laurier believe in stepping up to the plate when it comes to investing in the future of their institution," said Robert G. Rosehart, president and vice-chancellor of Laurier. "Our students have a well-earned reputation for getting involved and getting the job done."

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All funds generated by the levy will support initiatives of importance to the students. Thirty-five percent will cover costs associated with student-run spaces. Each year the university will prepare a list of projects for the remaining 65 percent and ask student leaders to approve the list.

The students have already indicated that the priorities should include scholarship and bursary funds, technology and library acquisitions, general enhancements of student life, new initiatives that the university president and student governments approve, and initiatives to maximize funding available from the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund.

“This agreement provides crucial funding to meet the greatest needs of the largest number of students and leaves the door open for emerging needs,” said WLUSU past president Andy Pushalik. “This is both a show of support for our institution and a responsible agreement to meet the needs of students in the years to come.”

The renewed agreement stipulates that three percent of the levy must fund projects at Laurier’s Brantford campus.

This donation is believed to be the largest of any Canadian university of a similar size. When the \$8.5 million is added to other student donations since Laurier’s last campaign closed in 1995, the total climbs above \$11 million. Undergraduate students pledged \$1.25 million to renovate the athletic complex in 1999-2000. They and the graduate students pledged another \$1.5 million in 2001 for a renovation project involving the student-services building and dining hall.