

NEWS RELEASE



1911-2011 | Wilfrid Laurier University

For Immediate Release
Jan. 31, 2011 | 016-11

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Laurier seeks provincial government investment in university infrastructure

University's pre-budget submission presented to MPPs

TORONTO – Wilfrid Laurier University today presented its 2011-12 pre-budget submission to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, which is gathering information for the upcoming provincial budget. The submission calls upon the Government of Ontario to invest in post-secondary education infrastructure and in a number of capital projects at Laurier campuses.

"Ontario has an opportunity to regain a position of leadership and competitive advantage through investment in post-secondary education," said Laurier President Max Blouw. "Seizing that opportunity will require the creation of tens of thousands of additional spaces at Ontario universities."

Laurier's submission includes an integrated plan for capital investment in Laurier's multi-campus success story, including investments in Waterloo, Brantford and a proposed campus in Milton.

"Knowledge is the currency of Ontario's new economy," said Blouw. "In partnership with the government, Laurier can create new opportunities that connect Ontario students to the province's future prosperity."

Laurier's 2011-12 pre-budget submission can be read at www.wlu.ca/prebudget.

A number of important initiatives in last year's provincial budget responded directly to Laurier's 2010-11 submission, including the need to update base funding for universities to recognize significant enrolment growth since 2005, the need for additional operating funding for additional spaces (20,000 provincewide) in 2010-11, and the commitment to work with stakeholders toward more sustainable public-sector pension plans.

Founded in 1911, Wilfrid Laurier University has been inspiring lives of leadership and purpose for 100 years. Today, Laurier is a comprehensive university focusing on excellence in teaching and research. The current student population is approximately 15,500 full-time equivalent undergraduate and graduate students on campuses in Waterloo and Brantford, and in programs in Kitchener and Toronto.