

NEWS RELEASE



1911-2011 | Wilfrid Laurier University

For Immediate Release
March 29, 2011 | 59-11

CONTACT

Brian Rosborough, Director of Government Relations
Wilfrid Laurier University
416-306-0866 ext.5126 or broborough@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

Laurier welcomes Ontario's investment in universities

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University today welcomed Ontario's 2011-12 budget commitment to provide operational funding for an additional 60,000 students in Ontario's post-secondary education system over the next five years.

"Universities are the drivers of a knowledge-based economy," said Laurier President Max Blouw. "The government's investment in universities is an investment in the social and economic prosperity of Ontario."

The budget includes an additional 60,000 spaces at Ontario universities and colleges by 2015-16 with new provincial funding in 2011-12 of \$64 million, growing to \$309 million in 2013-14. It also promises that a college or university space will be available for every qualified student.

These commitments build on an additional \$310 million a year in permanent operational funding included in last year's budget to fund post-secondary enrolment growth from 2005-06 to 2010-11.

The budget reiterates the government's commitment to 70 per cent attainment of post-secondary education in Ontario to prepare Ontario's workforce for current and future jobs in a knowledge-based economy. Fulfilling that commitment and creating capacity for the additional spaces announced in the budget will require a major expansion of Ontario universities. The government recently indicated that its highly anticipated 10-year infrastructure plan, including capital investment in post-secondary education, will be released in the coming weeks.

"The government's goals for post-secondary education will require significant capital investment in new capacity at Ontario's universities," said Blouw. "We are optimistic that the government's promise of spaces for all Ontario university students will be reflected in the 10-year infrastructure plan, including investment in Laurier's capital priorities."

Earlier this year, Laurier made a [pre-budget submission](#) to the government proposing provincial infrastructure investment to increase capacity at Laurier's campuses in Waterloo and Brantford, and for a proposed new Laurier campus in the Town of Milton. The proposals reflect the high demand for Laurier's programs and the government's commitment to the expansion of post-secondary education.