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DEC. 15, 2014 | 128-14

Laurier first university in Canada to receive Imagine Canada accreditation

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is the first university in Canada to receive accreditation from Imagine Canada under The Standards Program. The accreditation signifies that the university is operating at the highest standards in board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, staff management and volunteer involvement.

"Universities are public institutions, and it is essential that we meet the highest standards of trust," says Max Blouw, president and vice-chancellor at Laurier. "Accreditation from Imagine Canada assures our stakeholders — whether they be government, donors, employees or students — that our activities meet this expectation."

Imagine Canada offers programs and provides resources that help strengthen charities and nonprofits, so that they can best support the communities they serve. The Standards Program builds excellence within Canada's charities and nonprofits through common standards of practice and thereby strengthens public confidence in these organizations.

"Laurier's accreditation demonstrates that it is a leader in the university sector," says Bruce MacDonald, president and CEO of Imagine Canada. "The Standards Program is a rigorous, peer-reviewed process that is meant to build public trust and confidence in the charitable sector. Accreditation signifies that Laurier takes accountability and operational transparency very seriously."

This latest accreditation builds on Laurier's Ethical Code certification that it received from Imagine Canada in 2012. The ethical code outlined fundraising and financial accountability standards. The Standards Program extends evaluation to all the university's operations. Accreditation through the Standards Program recognizes that Laurier operates in compliance with each of the Imagine Canada Standards of governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, staff and volunteer management.

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