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A growing number of student applicants make Laurier their No. 1 choice among Ontario universities

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University continues to be a top choice for students seeking a high-quality university experience, according to application numbers released by the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC).

The number of applications from Ontario high school students who applied to Laurier for full-time studies by Jan. 13 rose 11.3 per cent over last year, considerably higher than the system-wide increase of 1.5 per cent across the province. As well, the number of applications that marked Laurier as first choice rose 25.2 per cent.

Ontario applicants who are no longer in high school, as well as those from outside of Ontario (both domestic and international), have until May 1 to submit applications to universities. As of Jan. 13, the number of these first-year applications to Laurier has increased 5.9 per cent over the same period last year, and the number that marked Laurier as first choice rose 2.3 per cent.

"Students have many universities to choose from in Ontario and it is deeply gratifying to see that Laurier is the No. 1 choice for a growing number of applicants," said Deborah MacLatchy, provost and vice-president: academic. "These increases reflect Laurier's reputation for delivering academic excellence and one of Canada's best student experiences. A Laurier degree continues to hold great value for graduates seeking strong, relevant academic programs followed by meaningful careers and contributions to society."

Demographic trends in Ontario indicate an ongoing decline in the number of 17- and 18-year-olds over the next four years, as well as significant changes in student interests. In response, Laurier continues to grow and strengthen its innovative academic programming, integrated with its renowned student experience. Laurier graduates leave the university with a solid academic foundation, an ability to problem-solve and think creatively, and highly developed social and job skills gained through engagement in enriched academic experiences, student clubs, volunteer activities, workplace training, and community involvement.

To experience Laurier, please visit our website at wlu.ca and come for a visit. We conduct regular tours of our Waterloo and Brantford campuses, and we are holding special "Tour+ Days" on Wednesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 4. Laurier is also holding its annual campus open houses on the following dates:

- **Waterloo Campus** March Break Open House: Wednesday, March 16, 2016.
- **Brantford Campus** March Break Open House: Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

Applications for select programs will continue to be accepted for the next several months. For more information, please contact: chooselaurier@wlu.ca