



I would like to begin this report by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of students, faculty and staff as we head into the final weeks of the winter term. At this time last year, we made the difficult decision to move to alternative course delivery modalities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we head into spring with the same measures in place, there is much hope for a return to face to face in the fall as vaccines continue to be rolled out across the country.

Increasingly, universities in Canada are turning their attention to the Fall with the expectation for increasing on campus and face to face activity. This too must be an objective for Laurentian University. In particular, we must be flexible in looking towards the Fall, taking every opportunity to safely promote a return to campus where possible, while building in the flexibility in our offerings needed to maximize the educational experience for Laurentian students.

Registration for Spring Term is Now Open

Laurentian is pleased to have posted and opened for registration, a full suite of courses for the spring semester which begins on May 3rd. In total, we have over 400 offerings across all programs and levels, 229 of which are remote delivery courses and 208 online. The delivery of these offerings presupposes that Laurentian achieves its milestones and objectives required for the end of April in the context of the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (CCAA) process, but is an essential next step in building towards the future. Here I particularly wish to acknowledge the collaboration of the Laurentian University Faculty Association for their flexibility in providing for instructor assignment for these courses.

Laurentian Ranked Second in Canada for Online Programs

Our online offerings have long been acknowledged as a leader in Ontario. Now, University Magazine has ranked Laurentian University amongst the top universities to study online in Canada (<https://www.universitymagazine.ca/the-best-online-universities-in-canada-2021/>). Laurentian University is ranked 2nd, ahead of McGill University in 3rd place, and just behind Athabasca University. This result has been realized thanks to the dedication of many faculty members, staff, and students who have contributed and of course with special acknowledgement of the Laurentian Online team for their great work.

Establishing a Path Forward

As we look ahead to the spring and fall semesters, I acknowledge the uncertainty that exists in the community, amongst students, faculty and staff, as Laurentian continues through the CCAA proceedings. As of this writing, it has been six weeks since the commencement of these proceedings. Stakeholders representing diverse interests from across the University have been engaging in mediation led by the Honourable Justice Sean Dunphy, a bilingual judge of the Ontario Superior Court, appointed by the Court as mediator.

With the goal of finding operational restructuring changes that will allow Laurentian to be a long-term sustainable part of our community, sharing of insights and perspectives by stakeholders has been critically important and I acknowledge all who are part of the mediation process as they work diligently in representation of diverse interests. Such representation includes this Academic Senate, through a selection of committed faculty and students, which includes Francophone and Indigenous perspec

Congratulations to the Laurentian University Women in Sport (LUWIS) team, Chaired by Sydney Graper (4th year Sport Psychology) and Vice-Chair Mandy Steele (4th year Health Promotion) for hosting their 2nd successful event in the *She Is* conference series. On February 26, 2021, the *She Is Brave* conference welcomed National, Olympic, NCAA, and professional female athletes who spoke with students about mental health. The LUWIS group aims to educate, motivate and inspire the next generation of those who identify as female to achieve their physical health, mental health and career goals.

Well done to the Laurentian [2021 Canadian Mining Games](#) team on their 2nd place finish this year. Members of the Laurentian team are Tommy Adair, Xavier Beneteau, Cat Biskupski, Jessica Bronicheski, Milton Chateauvert, Jay Chenier, Michael Chevalier, Sarah Cholewinsky, Tylor Gmehlin, Johnathan Hutteri, Bryce Jones George, Jonathan Leroux, Jack Miteff, Reid Murray, Scott Villeneuve, Connor White.
