

1960 **50** 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Aline Chrétien Appointed as Laurentian University's First Chancellor**

History was made yesterday at Laurentian University's Board of Governors' meeting. The Board of Governors, announced today that Aline Chrétien has been unanimously approved as the University's first-ever Chancellor.

Mrs. Chrétien has more than four decades of experience building relationships with parliamentarians, national and provincial leaders, corporate stakeholders, and world dignitaries. The spouse of former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is fluent in French, English, Italian, and Spanish and received her first honorary degree in 2003 from Laurentian University. She is active in many charitable organizations and served as Honorary Chair of the National Advisory Council of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

"This is such a wonderful announcement for Laurentian University as well as the communities we serve," said Board Chair and former Ontario Deputy Premier, Floyd Laughren. "Mrs. Chrétien is respected nationally and internationally for her intelligence, charm, and commitment to youth. She is a perfect fit with Laurentian".

Mrs. Chrétien will serve a three-year renewable term as the ceremonial head of the university. In this volunteer role, she will be called upon to preside over convocation ceremonies and confer degrees, provide advice to the President, and assist with the university's advocacy efforts. Mrs. Chrétien said she was excited when she was asked to serve as Laurentian's first-ever Chancellor -- and is even more excited to get started.

"I've been watching Laurentian University grow for decades," said Mrs. Chrétien. "Its bilingual and aboriginal programs are areas of education that are close to my heart. And, watching Laurentian grow and succeed with President Dominic Giroux at the helm over the past year and a half has been truly inspiring. It made me want to get involved and help spread the word and hopefully add to those successes."

Mrs. Chrétien added that she was particularly looking forward to the proposed launch in 2012 of Laurentian's School of Architecture in downtown Sudbury, which would be the first school of its kind to open in Canada in 40 years.

"I like what Laurentian University stands for, its focus on students. Sudbury and Barrie -- where Laurentian also has a campus -- are fantastic communities", commented Mrs. Chrétien.

President Giroux says Aline Chrétien's experience and passion make her an outstanding choice as Laurentian's inaugural Chancellor.

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“Mrs. Chrétien brings with her a vast amount of knowledge, insight, and vision,” says Giroux. “For me, personally, to have someone like her who I can turn to for advice and feedback will be so immensely valuable. I feel honoured that she accepted our invitation to join the team. It’s definitely a sign of validation for Laurentian University.”

Mrs. Chrétien joked that “it will be Jean’s turn to assist me in my duties”. She added that her son-in-law, André Desmarais, President and Co-Chief Executive Officer of Power Corporation of Canada, was proud to see her appointed to his role, since his grand-father Jean-Noël Desmarais was one of the founding governors of Laurentian University.

The official installation of Aline Chrétien as Chancellor will take place on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

*Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Laurentian University is one of the fastest growing universities in Canada, its enrolment having gone from 6,000 to over 9,000 in the past decade. With its main campus in Sudbury, it offers a growing number of programs in Barrie. Laurentian was recently ranked as the Canadian university with the sixth fastest growth in research activity. Laurentian is a bilingual university with a tricultural mandate to support Aboriginal students who represent 11% of its enrolment. Laurentian’s engineering students won this year the Canadian Engineering Challenge, after winning the provincial competition two years in a row. It is the first school outside the US accredited for its forensic science programs. Last year, 100% of the first graduates from its School of Medicine obtained their first choice of residency program – a first in Canada in ten years.*

*Proud of its retention rate of local university applicants - which is the highest in Ontario, half of Laurentian’s students now come from outside Northeastern Ontario. First choice high school confirmations are up 16% this year, the highest increase among Ontario universities. Laurentian’s international admissions went up 40% last year.*

*Distinguished Laurentian alumni include Olympic gold medallist Alex Baumann, Grant Thornton CEO Phil Noble, Ernst & Young Asia–Pacific area managing partner Lou Pagnutti, Senator Marie Poulin and CGI CEO Michael Roach.*

-30-

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