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## **Dominic Giroux named Personality of the Year in education by *Le Droit*/Radio-Canada**

Sudbury, Ontario – The president of Laurentian University, Dominic Giroux, was named Personality of the Year in education by *Le Droit*/Radio-Canada during a gala event held last night in Gatineau.

Senator Marie Poulin, alumna and former member of Laurentian University’s Board of Governors, attended the gala. “Dominic Giroux is incredibly talented and those who have rubbed shoulders with him hold him in high esteem. I’m very happy to see him honoured in this way, which reflects not only on him, but also on Laurentian University and northern Ontario. His keen spirit, strategic perspicacity and commitment to education have already benefited Laurentian,” she explains.

Throughout the year, the daily *Le Droit* of Ottawa and Radio-Canada present personalities of the week chosen by a jury. Dominic Giroux was named Personality of the Week last June 15<sup>th</sup>. After the year is through, the jury hands out one award to a personality in each field of endeavour and names the Personality of the Year. The objective of these awards is to highlight the contributions of people who set themselves apart through their commitment to their community.

“I heartily thank *Le Droit* and Radio-Canada for this award that I will humbly bring with me to Sudbury to share with my family, colleagues and community. We have great ambitions for Laurentian and I’m proud to say that I’m surrounded by great people to help drive its achievements. Despite the economic situation, Laurentian has the wind in its sails,” said Giroux.

The president hurriedly pointed out that this honour lies within a long list of recent achievements by Laurentian faculty, staff, students and its 40,000 alumni, who will all celebrate the University’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next month.

In fact, for the second year in a row, Laurentian students beat out 15 universities to take first place at the provincial engineering competition. LU commerce students tied for second place among 35 teams at the annual CMA case competition in accounting. Each of the 55 members of the first medical school graduating class were granted their first choice residence program, which has not happened in this country over the last ten years. Laurentian’s forensics programs are the first outside the U.S. to be accredited by the Forensic Science Education Program Accreditation Commission. The Faculty of Management received the Institutional Best Overall Performance Award in research at the last conference of the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada. As well, Laurentian was recently ranked sixth among Canadian universities for growth of its research activities.

“Since Dominic Giroux arrived in April 2009, Laurentian has refocused on four key goals, i.e. improving national recognition, being a university of choice, increasing student engagement and being responsive to the needs of communities. Thanks to collective efforts, national recognition and

student satisfaction have made measurable progress. Admissions to Laurentian are up by 11%, 26% for Francophones and 40% for international students, all with an increase in the admission average. The number of high school students applying as a first choice to LU in Sudbury for next fall increased by 19%,” said Carolyn Sinclair, chair of the Board of Governors.

Last May, the University secured the final financial contribution required to carry out the Vale Inco Living with Lakes Centre, a 20 million dollar project which is well underway. Laurentian’s next priority is to open a 44 million dollar School of Architecture in downtown Sudbury in September 2011, Canada’s first in 40 years and the first to offer programs in French outside of Quebec. This project is supported by Canada’s 11 schools of architecture.

Since 2000, the number of students has increased from 6,000 to 9,000, making Laurentian the fourth fastest growing student population in Ontario. Moreover, more than 60 million dollars were invested in the Sudbury campus over the past five years, including a new medical school, a new school of education, a new residence and a recreation centre expansion.

“Laurentian continues to excel all the while preserving one of the smallest class sizes in Ontario and boasting, year after year, one of the highest post-graduation job rates in the province,” added Giroux.

A native of Ottawa, Dominic Giroux was elected school board trustee when he was 19 years old and school board chair two years later. He then worked as a senior executive in two school boards before becoming assistant deputy minister for the Ontario Ministry of Education and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In 2008, the University of Ottawa’s chancellor granted him the first Leadership Award in Education. A graduate of HEC Montréal, he received the annual Award of Leadership for large-scale organization from the Montreal business community that same year.

A member of several regional and provincial organizations, Dominic Giroux is currently the vice-chair of the *Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne* and co-chair of the *Consortium national de formation en santé*. Native of New Liskeard, the president’s wife, Barbara Breault, is a proud graduate of Laurentian University.

The special Personality of the Year issue of the daily *Le Droit* will be available in the next few days at [www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit](http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit). Radio-Canada will also broadcast the gala evening on Sunday, February 21 at 5 p.m. (in Ottawa/Gatineau).

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