



Legislation Text

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LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY DOWNTOWN PROPOSAL

Dominic Giroux, President of Laurentian University provided a presentation regarding a proposal for Laurentian University to build a Downtown Barrie campus. Mr. Giroux described Laurentian University and commented that he believes creating a Downtown Barrie campus responds to the community's needs. He examined a number of statistics concerning university participation rates within the City of Barrie comparing them to the provincial average. Mr. Giroux explained that Laurentian University's Board of Directors has approved a long-term capital plan for a campus in downtown Barrie and envisions the university opening in 2020. He outlined why the university believes Barrie as a good fit and described how the university proposes to make the proposal a reality. Mr. Giroux provided economic impact estimates from an Economic Impact Study completed by KPMG and described the return on investment he believes will occur if the university is built. He shared examples of other municipal investments for universities throughout the province and described the role the steering committee would play throughout the process. Mr. Giroux concluded by requesting that City Council consider a \$14 million dollar pledge towards the project and urged them to make a decision in a timely manner.

Members of City Council asked a number of questions regarding Laurentian's proposed Downtown Barrie Campus.