

**President's Report  
to the Board of Governors**

April  
2024





# Office of the President

## Updates on Presidential Initiatives and Activities

### Minister Sudds Visits Lakehead University

The Honourable Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development Canada, recently visited Lakehead University to make a significant post-federal budget announcement on "A Fair Future for Indigenous Peoples".

During her visit, Minister Sudds had the pleasure of touring the Indigenous Student Services Centre, where she engaged directly with students and staff involved in the Niiiji Indigenous Mentorship Program, joined by President Gillian Siddall and Denise Baxter, Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives. Additionally, she explored the Nanda Gikendan Gamik Resource Center, further emphasizing the federal government's commitment to supporting Indigenous educational initiatives.



(from left) Stacey Pawluk, Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Administrative and Programs Officer, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice Chancellor, Minister Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development of Canada, Denise Baxter, Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives





## Yucatan English Language Group Graduation

50 Educators and 48 students from the State of Yucatan graduated from Lakehead University's English Language Centre's Train the Trainer Program and the General English program. Lakehead University is honoured to have been selected among many other universities from Canada and U.S. by the Office of Research, Innovation and Higher Education of the Government of Yucatan to host teachers and undergraduate students at Lakehead's English Language Centre.





## Superior Science

President Siddall met with the current and past directors from Superior Science. It was a great opportunity to meet with the group and hear about all their accomplishments in growing this program. Julia and Julia are current undergraduate students. Alexandra graduated last May. Dr. Mary Louise Hill (Faculty Advisor since 1999) and Dr. Christine Gottardo (in-coming Faculty Advisor) also attended.

Superior Science, a non-profit initiative led by students, ignites children's passion for science, engineering, and technology with engaging, hands-on activities. Nestled within Lakehead University, Superior Science thrives on the belief that true learning occurs through interactive experiences. Since its inception in 1999, this program has remained dedicated to fostering scientific curiosity by delivering diverse outreach initiatives across Northwestern Ontario



*(from left) Dr. Mary Louise Hill, Faculty Advisor, Julia Seguin, Junior Director, Dr. Siddall, President & Vice-Chancellor, Alexandra Grillo, Program and Policy Manager, Julia Buchan, Senior Director, Dr. Christine Gottardo, Faculty Advisor*

## Update on the Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program (CDVMP)

The CDVMP, a vital initiative addressing the shortage of veterinarians in Northern Ontario, is progressing well. To maintain our timeline, the University of Guelph will host the first cohort at their Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), leveraging their resources. Meanwhile, Lakehead University is focused on building necessary facilities in Thunder Bay to start the program there in Fall 2026. External factors prompted a slight adjustment in our timeline, necessitating additional funding due to inflation's impact on building costs. With funding secured, we're preparing for the Thunder Bay intake in 2026.

## Library unveils name of new Indigenous cultural and resource centre

Lakehead University conducted a naming ceremony for the new Indigenous resource centre in the Chancellor Paterson Library on Wednesday, March 27. In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, the former Northern Studies Resource Centre will be renamed to Nanda Gikendan Gamik (nan-da gi-kane-dan ga-mick). Seek to know, seek to learn place.

This name was gifted to the library by the Indigenous Elders Council and the library is extremely grateful for their kind and gracious input. The Resource Centre will be a place where Indigenous students will be welcomed and their heritage and culture will be deeply honoured and respected.

Lakehead University is committed to serving the region and has a large number of Indigenous students who chose to pursue their post-secondary education here. The university is committed to supporting all Indigenous students and Indigenous education.

[Click here to watch the TBTNews media release...](#)







## Office of Indigenous Initiatives Update

The Indigenous Cultural Wellness Facilitator (Orillia) hosted a Tobacco Planting and Seed Sharing on Tuesday evenings and Anishinaabemowin Nutrition Bingos on Thursday evenings throughout the month of March.

Indigenous Initiatives also hosted weekly Tuesday gatherings for the Turtle Island Student Circle (TISC) throughout the month of March. This was an opportunity to support Indigenous students coming together and support the Indigenous Lakehead Orillia community with student-led programming. This was hosted by the Indigenous Initiatives Orillia's Graduate Assistant and Georgian College Placement Student.

**Denise Baxter**, the Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives, **Mercedes Jacko**, the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator and **Mike den Haan**, Vice-President External Relations met with Steve Mirkopolous on March 20 to discuss his donation to Indigenous Initiatives on the Orillia Campus and how this will impact Indigenous students in a good way.

## Career Services & Co-Op

In March, Career Services & Co-op hosted 9 events on the Orillia Campus and developed several new workshops in response to student interests, including a LinkedIn Profile workshop and an Accommodation in the Workplace workshop.



## Lakehead Orillia celebrates achievements at 2023-24 athletic awards

Lakehead University's Orillia Campus celebrated a successful 2023-24 athletics season on Thursday, April 4, handing out awards at the annual Athletic Awards Banquet.

**Paige Galbraith** walked away with the Female Athlete of the Year, with **Jonathan Aronov** claiming Male Athlete of the Year. **Bethany Foster** received this year's Principal's Award for leadership in athletics.

Most valuable player and rookie of the year were also announced and presented to top athletes in each of the University's sports teams: men's and women's hockey, dance, and men's and women's varsity indoor soccer.

For a full list of awards, please see below:

### Major Award Winners

Female Athlete of the Year  
Paige Galbraith, Varsity Women's Indoor Soccer

Male Athlete of the Year  
Jonathan Aronov, Varsity Men's Indoor Soccer

Principal's Award  
Bethany Foster, Varsity Women's Indoor Soccer

### Team Awards

Men's Varsity Indoor Soccer  
MVP: Alec McNeil  
Rookie of the Year: Domenic Pecchia

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



### Team Awards

Women's Varsity Indoor Soccer  
MVP: Alison Birkett  
Rookie of the Year: Hannah Szeplaki

Men's Extramural Hockey  
MVP: Ryan Graff-Sakasov  
Rookie of the Year: Desmond Kropf

Women's Extramural Hockey  
MVP: Rachel Poole  
Rookie of the Year: Alexandra Walker

Dance  
MVP: Reese Chamberlain  
Rookie of the Year: Alexis Sheppard





## Academic Excellence

### Lakehead's Civil Engineering students win top prizes at Steel Bridge Competition

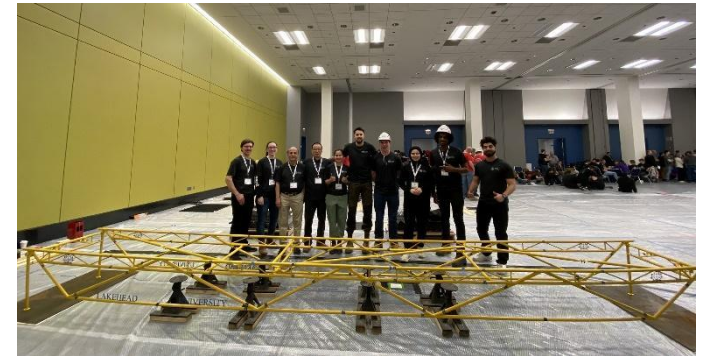
The Lakehead University steel bridge team achieved top prizes at the annual American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Western Great Lakes Student Symposium in Chicago from April 4 to 6. The Lakehead team won three awards including first place in lightness, second place in aesthetics and third place in construction economy, and were ranked fourth place overall among the 16 universities competing.

The team was made up of third- and fourth-year civil engineering students: captain **Zachary Morgan**, co-captain **Karl Prentice**, **Lovely Faith Donaldson**, **Ibrahim Shaheed**, **Mohamed Abi**, and **Wadika Faisal**.

In this year's competition, students were challenged to design and fabricate a 1:10 scale model steel bridge spanning 21 feet over an extra-wide eight-foot river and subject to height restrictions to minimize interference with its surroundings. The bridge was then tested under 2,500 pounds of weight to confirm its stability, strength and stiffness. The competition experience included conceptual design and details design, fabrication, erection, and testing.

In addition, third-year civil engineering student **Nadine Elmehriki** participated in a paper competition, representing the Lakehead ASCE student chapter. The Lakehead delegation was led by faculty advisor **Dr. Yanglin Gong** and supported by technologists **Cory Hubbard** and **Kailash Bhatia**. Construction company **Facca Inc.** and the **Iron Workers Local 759** in Thunder Bay were the major sponsors for the team.

**Dr. Jian Deng**, chair of civil engineering in Lakehead's Faculty of Engineering added, "The Department of Civil Engineering is incredibly proud of our students. Their performance was exceptional and they once again demonstrated that Lakehead can compete and win against tough competition from top U.S. universities in the region."



(from left) Cory Hubbard, Nadine Elmehriki, Kailash Bhatia, Dr. Yanglin Gong, Lovely Faith Donaldson, Zachary Morgan, Karl Prentice, Wadika Faisal, Mohamed Abi, and Ibrahim Shaheed.



(from left) Wadika Faisal, Nadine Elmehriki, Ibrahim Shaheed, Mohamed Abi, Lovely Faith Donaldson, Karl Prentice, Zachary Morgan, Cory Hubbard, Kailash Bhatia, and Dr. Yanglin Gong.





## LAIR Galleries Features Stained Glass Paintings by Paul Edmonds

The 2024 Lakehead Arts Integrated Research (LAIR) resident artist is **Paul Edmonds**. His painted stained glass series is featured on the LAIR website. Paul is a self-taught artist who started painting in the 1980s, as a means to convey hope, resiliency, and beauty in the face of adversity.

Paul is known worldwide as the “City of Hope Patient”. He is one of five people who have been cured of HIV. Of this very rare group, Paul is the eldest and had HIV the longest. Through a life-saving stem cell transplant of a rare genetic mutation that makes the body resistant to HIV, Paul is now cured and he no longer takes HIV medication.

Paul serves on the Community Advisory Board for RID-HIV, one of 10 Martin Delaney Collaboratories funded by the National Institutes of Health. He also works tirelessly, speaking at events and raising awareness of HIV cure research. He believes that art has the power to inspire, heal, and bring people together.

While stem cell transplantation is not an accessible cure, the five cured patients have provided scientists with an increased understanding of the virus. The World Health Organization [reports](#) that in 2022, 39 million people were living with HIV and 630,000 people died of HIV-related illnesses. WHO contends that [“HIV continues to be a major global public health issue”](#). Through collaborative scientific research and community engagement efforts, HIV research awareness is growing. See related [HIV arts integrated efforts](#) in the LAIR Gallery.



The LAIR Galleries regularly feature juried artworks and artists, promoting the power of the arts in research and education.

Pictured is *Stained Glass No. 6, Paul Edmonds, 2023*





## Dr. Ruth Beatty Receives Award for “Exceptional and Creative Teaching in Post-Secondary Mathematics Education”

**Dr. Ruth Beatty** (Associate Professor, Orillia) has been awarded the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education (OAME) 2024 award for Exceptional and Creative Teaching in Post-Secondary Mathematics. This award recognizes “a post-secondary educator who demonstrates excellence in mathematics education, contributes to the overall development of students, and demonstrates leadership in the mathematics education community” (OAME).

Ruth was nominated for the award by one of her longstanding research partners. The award nomination letter indicated that many of the projects that Ruth has collaboratively facilitated (including the *Connecting Indigenous Knowledge and Western Mathematical Ways of Knowing* research and resulting *First Nations and Métis Math Voices Project*, as well as the *Wiidookaadying Gikinoomaagewin: Gindaaswin Kendaaswin - Relationships & Reciprocity: Indigenous Mathematics Education Conference*) have been deeply influential and transformative on the practices of mathematics educators, schools, and boards of education:

Ruth will be formally recognized at the annual Ontario Association for Mathematics Education Conference, held in Kingston in May 2024. She will be further honoured in an article in the September *Gazette* (a publication of OAME), and on the OAME website.

Congratulations, Ruth!

[Click here to read the media release...](#)

[Click here to read the CBC press release...](#)







## Empowering Diversity in Outdoor Recreation at Lakehead University

**Aseel Hashim**, Master of Public Health candidate and graduate research assistant in the Department of Health Sciences, recently founded BIPOC Outdoor Adventures at Lakehead University with a generous \$5,500 grant from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

This innovative program aims to enhance accessibility to outdoor recreation for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) students, addressing a need identified through a class research project demonstrating systemic barriers faced by BIPOC students in accessing outdoor spaces and activities.

Her vision for the club is to foster community, break down systemic barriers, and create a space where every student feels empowered and welcomed to explore the outdoors.

The substantial funding from the Community Foundation will fuel the program's initiatives, allowing for excursions that promise unforgettable experiences and valuable opportunities for participants. Hashim says the program will also incorporate knowledge sharing to educate and prevent injuries in the outdoors.

Hashim would like to extend special thanks to **Dr. Rosenthal** and **Dr. Leigh Potvin** from ORPT, for their unwavering support and recognition of this initiative.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



## Over \$1.4M in funding awarded to Nipissing University professor for climate change research

A Nipissing University professor has received nearly \$1.5M in federal funding for climate change research. Partnering with the City of Greater Sudbury and Vale Base Metals, along with Drs. Pete Whittington (Brandon University), Ellie Goud (St. Mary's University), **Nathan Basiliko** (Lakehead University), John Gunn and Peter Beckett (Laurentian University), Dr. McCarter's research will examine how metal and sulfur pollution from historical mining activities in Northeastern Ontario has impacted carbon storage, greenhouse gas emissions, and soil and water quality in wetlands. A key goal is also to develop novel reclamation techniques to restore both the biodiversity and ecosystem services of severely polluted peatland wetlands.

[Click here to read the My West Nipissing Now press release...](#)





## Teacher Candidate Georgia Tocheri Wins Award for Demonstrated Excellence as a French Second Language Teacher

Congratulations to BEd teacher candidate **Georgia Tocheri** (Intermediate/Senior division), winner of the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association "Helen G. Mitchell Award."

This award honours one graduating student from each Faculty of Education in the province who best demonstrates the attributes of a potentially outstanding Classical/French as a Second Language/International language teacher.

Georgia was nominated by **James Steele**, Contract Lecturer (Faculty of Education) for her demonstrated excellence in the BEd program courses and practicums, and for applying effective second language methodologies that lead to success in the classroom.

Georgia, who graduates in June and is currently teaching in a Grade 3 French class, notes that "this award is very meaningful to me ... my mom and my previous French teachers used to attend the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association conferences. I am so excited to start my career as a French Teacher."

Congratulations, Georgia!







## Enactus Lakehead Brings Home Runner-Up at Regional Exposition

Enactus Lakehead represented Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus at the Enactus Canada Central Region Regional Exposition in Mississauga on March 7 and 8. A team from the Orillia campus also participated this year for the first time. Each year, Enactus Canada runs a series of regional and national expositions allowing teams to display their work from the past academic year. Enactus Lakehead was recognized as the runner-up in the TD-Entrepreneurship Challenge, an award last won by Enactus Lakehead in 2019.



This year, the team developed a new project called Brain Blitz, which focuses on educating high school and university students on the basics of entrepreneurship and soft skills through numerous activities such as speaker series, soft skills workshops, and hackathons. Enactus Lakehead would like to thank all the students who participated in these events and the faculty and staff who supported our activities! In total, since starting this project in June 2023, Enactus Lakehead impacted over 580 students. Thanks to many different sponsors, four different competitions were run. The team participated in the Desjardins Youth Empowerment Challenge, TD Entrepreneurship Challenge, and the Innovation and Impact Challenge Powered by Enactus Alumni. At the regional exposition, 29 teams competed for the title of regional champion in their given challenge.

Before the competition, our team ran a Pre-Regionals Community Showcase that was attended by numerous entrepreneurship mentors from across Thunder Bay. The showcase provided the team with valuable practice and feedback on their presentation. Thanks to all this practice, Enactus Lakehead was recognized as the Runner-Up in the TD-Entrepreneurship Challenge, an award not won by Enactus Lakehead since 2019. Morgan Gordon, the project manager of Brain Blitz, expressed, "it is amazing to be recognized for our hard work and dedication to serving the student community of Lakehead University." At the regional exposition, the team also had the opportunity to network with upwards of 1,400 other university students with the same goal.

The Thunder Bay Enactus team will be traveling to the Enactus Canada National Exposition in May to compete with the same project, with the goal of being crowned National Champion, and the honour of representing Canada in the World Cup! Enactus Lakehead would like to thank all the students, faculty, and staff who have volunteered numerous hours to advise and assist the team throughout all of its activities. Without the support of these individuals as well as our sponsors, inspirational trips like these would not be possible!





## Local and Global Partnerships

### Lakehead Orillia Celebrates Its Student Leaders with Awards, Pasta and Dancing!

On April 3, LUSU, Student Success and Dana Hospitality partnered to present another People's Pasta event on campus. The afternoon event featured the Lakehead Leaders' Awards Ceremony, a performance by the Lakehead Dance Team and a free pasta lunch prepared by Lakehead staff and LUSU volunteers. Co-hosted by LUSU VP **Brandon Rhéal Amyot** and Orillia Interim Principal **Dr. Linda Rodenburg**, the day celebrated the amazing achievements of 14 of Lakehead's student leaders who demonstrate principles of Lakehead University's motto: Achievement Through Effort, as well as the institution's mission, vision, and strategic academic plans. In addition, 4 students were also presented with a Luminary Award, which celebrates the significant contributions and impacts made to the betterment of our campus community and the community at large.







## Lakehead hosting World Water Day celebrations

Lakehead University joined the global community in raising awareness about the importance of fresh water on World Water Day.

The University hosted its inaugural World Water Day celebrations on Friday, March 22 in Thunder Bay, to focus on the importance of protecting and respecting water and to raise awareness of those living without access to safe water.

“Water or ‘nibi’ is not merely a resource; it is a basic necessity and has such profound importance for all of us,” says **Denise Baxter**, Vice Provost Indigenous Initiatives. “On World Water Day, we will explore the work being done to address some of the challenges related to access to clean, safe water, whether that’s through advocacy, research, policy development, and more. Without nibi there is no life.”



The World Water Day celebrations will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Agora with **Elder Sheila De Corte**. Students, employees and the Thunder Bay community are invited to hear teachings and stories from Elder De Corte about the Water Walkers.

Then, from 11:50 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., attendees heard from **Dr. Juan Guillermo Sánchez Martínez**, Associate Professor in the Department of Indigenous Learning; **Maya Oversby** and **Katie Freeman**, Master of Social Justice program students; and **Dr. Glenda Bonifacio**, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities.

11:50 a.m., Dr. Juan Guillermo Sánchez Martínez recited his poem “Uranium/Uranio” (Cactus del Viento, 2023)

12:10 p.m., Maya Oversby and Katie Freeman discussed how past and potential future industry have impacted the water, land and people of the Northwest

12:25 p.m., Dr. Glenda Bonifacio discussed the intersections of gender with water and environmental militarism in island countries

The Lakehead University community is invited to attend and learn more about the collective responsibility of individuals, communities, governments, and organizations to ensure access to clean, safe water for generations to come.



## Office of International Engagement

During the week of March 18-22, Lakehead University Orillia championed the #ITSTARTS Campaign with the County of Simcoe. This campaign is a public awareness campaign designed to take a proactive step towards addressing racism and discrimination in Simcoe County. It works to promote a unified community that rages collective action against racism and discrimination. During this week, we celebrated diversity through virtual panels for Newcomers and Professionals in our TB and Orillia communities, we held our annual Welcome the World Fair during which staff, faculty, students, and members of the public "travelled" the world, sampling cultural foods, co-learning dances and games, and engaging in cultural arts. Indigenous Initiatives participated by hosting a Turtle Island information table. We also recognized 75 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, World Down Syndrome Day, and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through individual commitments to how and where #ITSTARTS, and the week culminated in a celebration of World Water Day through our Indigenous Initiatives Department.







On Tuesday, February 6, Nicky Locker, the International Engagement Specialist on the Orillia Campus, attended an event which welcomed the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Edith Dumont. She met with Inclusive Orillia, a team intent on service to the community in the area of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She discussed the important role this team will play to create a sense of belonging and work to address barriers alongside community partners. Lakehead University's Orillia Campus holds a seat on the leadership team of Inclusive Orillia.



*From left to right: Orillia Mayor, Don McIsaac, Lakehead University International Engagement Officer, Nicky Locker (Inclusive Orillia Board Member), Celeste Lalumiere (Board Secretary), Krystal Brooks (Board Member), The Honourable Edith Dumont, Wes Erskine (Board Co-Founder and Member), Stephen Davids (Board Co-Chair), and Rama First Nation Chief Ted Williams.*



# Entrepreneurship and Innovation

## John Dobson Foundation supports entrepreneurial spirit at Lakehead University

Lakehead's *Ingenuity* Ascend Accelerator program is a 10-week program that provides mentorship, networking, and business development workshops to entrepreneurial-minded students and alumni looking to transform their ideas into tangible realities.

A \$132,000 award from the John Dobson Foundation's Dobson Entrepreneurship Excellence Project will help Lakehead University train future entrepreneurs through *Ingenuity's* Ascend Accelerator program.

With the support of the Dobson Entrepreneurship Excellence Project Award (DEEPA), the *Ingenuity* incubator space will fund 24 business ideas over the next two years and expand Ascend Accelerator programming to Lakehead's Orillia Campus.



Launched in 2020, the Ascend Accelerator program supports entrepreneurial-minded students and alumni who are looking to transition an idea into a business opportunity or accelerate the growth and development of their early-stage start-up.

The program provides entrepreneurs access to mentorship, develops their business knowledge, and creates accountability through milestone goal creation. To date, the program has run three cohorts and supported 12 business ideas, nine of which are still active.

To follow along as we grow the next generation of innovators and changemakers, please visit [www.lakeheadu.ca/centre/ingenuity](http://www.lakeheadu.ca/centre/ingenuity).

**Click here to read the media release...**





## Ascend Accelerator helps entrepreneurs turn business ideas into reality

Lakehead University recently celebrated graduates from its fourth cohort of the Ascend Accelerator program, hosted by the Ingenuity incubator space.

This year's cohort saw four student-led Thunder Bay and Orillia-based ventures navigate their way through the entrepreneurial journey. The businesses range from augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) software development to sustainability consulting services, and Airbnb cleaning solutions.

Along with funding from the John Dobson Foundation, students were provided with a platform to transform their ideas into tangible realities. Participants received mentorship and weekly workshops and were held accountable to milestone goals created over the 10-week program, which ran from January to March.

For more about Ingenuity, visit [www.lakeheadu.ca/centre/ingenuity](http://www.lakeheadu.ca/centre/ingenuity).

[Click here to read the media release...](#)

## Research and Innovation Week: Orillia

During Research and Innovation Week in Orillia Lakehead members and guests had a number of events to attend, some of which include undergraduate, graduate and faculty posters, and Indigenous Market Place and career fair.

On March 6, Lakehead University Orillia campus hosted an Industry Panel sponsored by County of Simcoe, City of Barrie, City of Orillia and Georgian College to discover innovative strategies and practical applications as industry leaders share their expertise on leveraging AI for growth and efficiency.

[Click here to read the Orilla Matters press release...](#)

[Click here to read the Collingwood Today press release...](#)



*Pictured (from left) Joshua Sanchez, Aliss Chavarri, Ingenuity manager, Alyson MacKay, Lesly Gunasekara, and Bryan Wong.*





## CIHR/ Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Research Facilitator

Lakehead University's Office of Research Services is pleased to welcome **Dr. Jocelyn Bel** as Lakehead's new CIHR/ Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Research Facilitator. Jocelyn has been at Lakehead for the past 13 years having completed her PhD in Medical Biotechnology in June 2022, her MSc in Biology in 2018, her MBA in 2016, and HBSc in Applied Bio-Molecular Science in 2015, all from Lakehead University. She has published her research in both Physiological Reports and Water, Air and Soil Pollution.



During her time at Lakehead, Jocelyn has been involved in many aspects of the university including the Senate Research Committee, Biosafety Committee, Student Union, Graduate Student Association, and Superior Science, to name a few. Most recently Jocelyn has been the Office's EDI Research Facilitator since July 2022 and has been available to assist researchers with their grant proposals, specifically with helping them develop EDI plans in accordance with the new funding guidelines. In her new enhanced role as the CIHR/EDI Research Facilitator, Jocelyn will work on reviewing and enhancing Lakehead's health-related research applications and while continuing to help faculty with their EDI strategies in their applications. Jocelyn will also continue to develop new EDI training programs, supporting the Canada Research Chair Program, as well as promoting and supporting EDI practices in the research enterprise. You can reach Jocelyn by email at [cihr.research@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:cihr.research@lakeheadu.ca) or at [edi.research@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:edi.research@lakeheadu.ca)





## ‘Research Matters’

Research Matters featured **Dr. Leila Pakzad**, an Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Lakehead University. Dr. Pakzad is also a Lakehead University Research Chair in Respiratory Aerosol Dynamics with Applications to Pharmaceutical Drug Delivery. Joined with Dr. Pakzad were **Farnia Dastoorian** and **Taha Sadeghi** (Two PhD candidates in the Biotechnology Program).

Dr. Pakzad discussed how she is trying to understand the problems related to the low efficiency of respiratory drug delivery by looking at (1) the currently available inhaler devices that produce the drug particles/aerosols, (2) developing a CFD model that can be the best representative of the entire process by adding more features to the currently developed models. Such features included adding the mucus layer to the model, considering the relative humidity and different ambient temperatures, or considering the movement of the tongue in the mouth or the throat during inhalation/exhalation, and many other features currently ignored in such models.

[Click here to watch the video on YouTube...](#)

Research Matters featured **Dr. Aislin Mushquash** an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University. Dr. Mushquash is also a Clinical Psychologist with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care where she provides assessment, intervention, and consultation to support First Nations children, youth, adults, and families.

Joined Dr. Mushquash were graduate student(s) **Angela MacIsaac** (PhD) and **Angela Ashley** (Masters). She discussed two areas tied into stress and coping; first area is lab-based research, predictors of maladaptive coping; personality traits and how that shapes how people cope with stress. Second area: applied - implement studies in community based; Joy Pop studies.

[Click here to watch the video on YouTube...](#)