



**President's  
Report to Senate**

October  
2021





## Office of the President

### **Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell named Lakehead University's 10th Chancellor**

**Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell** has been named Lakehead University's next Chancellor.

The announcement was made by President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson, who served as Chair of the University's Chancellor Electoral Board on October 1.

The Chancellor is the titular head of the University, conferring all degrees and diplomas, as well as representing the University on other ceremonial occasions and participating in outreach and philanthropic initiatives.

She has worked as an academic, broadcaster, television producer, journalist, and theatre artist. Dr. Deverell has received numerous awards, including two Geminis and the Black Women's Civic Engagement Network Leadership Award. She is the first person of colour to serve as Lakehead University's chancellor.

Dr. Deverell was appointed to the Order of Canada in 2005 for her pioneering work in broadcasting, and received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the Lakehead Orillia Convocation ceremony in 2017.

Dr. Deverell will be formally installed as Lakehead's 10th Chancellor at Convocation in 2022.

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## Times Higher Education Ranks Lakehead University Among World's Top Universities

For the third year in a row, Lakehead University has been included in the top half of the Times Higher Education's list of the best universities from around the world.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022 places Lakehead University in the 801-1,000 category out of more than 1,600 universities from 99 countries. Over 2,100 universities participated in the world rankings this year, with more than 1,660 universities meeting the requirements to be included in the final rankings.

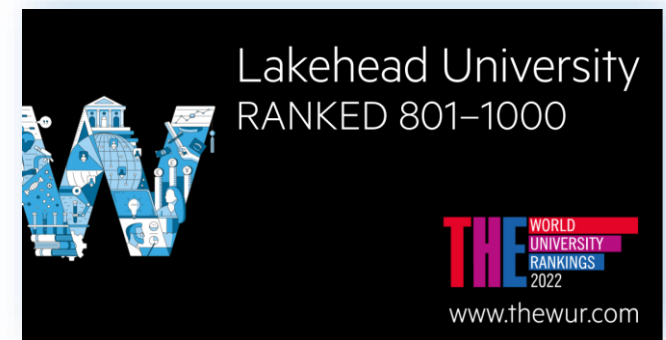
In this year's rankings, Lakehead ranked second among Canada's primarily undergraduate universities and second among Ontario's primarily undergraduate universities. Lakehead University also ranked in the same bracket as a number of Canadian universities, and ranked above the worldwide median in the areas of research and international outlook.

In terms of Lakehead's position in the area of international outlook, James Aldridge, Vice-Provost, International, said this ranking recognizes the efforts Lakehead has made toward internationalization of the University.

In addition to the world rankings, THE also releases a series of comparative subject rankings throughout the fall. In the first release of the 2022 World University Rankings by Subject, Lakehead was ranked in the top third of universities around the world in the discipline of Physical Sciences, which includes mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, and environmental and earth sciences. Lakehead was also identified as one of the leading universities in the world in the disciplines of Life Sciences (agriculture and forestry, biological science and sports science) and Clinical and Health, and the top ranked Canadian university in these disciplines with less than 10,000 students.

The World University Rankings measure research-intensive universities performance across their core missions: teaching (the learning environment); research (volume and reputation); citations (research influence); industry income (knowledge transfer); and international outlook (staff, students and research).

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## Academic Excellence

### Lakehead University Researchers Receive Mitacs Awards to Support Industrial and Social Innovation

In recent months, several Mitacs awards have been secured by researchers and trainees at Lakehead University, including three Mitacs Accelerate awards, which support industry-based research internships for students and postdocs, and one Mitacs Elevate Postdoctoral Fellowship, which combines industry-partnered research with Mitacs-lead professional development training.

Accelerate awards were granted to **Drs Charles Levkoe** (Health Sciences), **Ulf Runesson** (Natural Resources Management), and **Yimin Yang** (Computer Science). **Dr. Levkoe**, in partnership with Plenty Canada, received a total of \$30,000 to fund a postdoctoral fellow who will be working to support Indigenous people and communities in efforts to establish their own food systems through a better understanding of COVID19 food responses and adaptations. Dr. Runesson partnered with KBM Resources Group to support a Master's student in studying the use of mechanized bathymetry vehicles for automated tailings impound surveys at mining sites. Dr. Runesson was granted \$30,000 to conduct this research. Dr. Yang was awarded \$45,000 to support three MSc students enrolled in the Vector Institute Program to study the intersection of artificial intelligence and business, specifically as it pertains to persona construction and preference prediction. This research is supported by PTPA Media Inc.

Additionally, a Mitacs Elevate Postdoctoral Fellowship was awarded to **Dr. Mitch Albert** (Chemistry), and his postdoc, **Dr. Yurii Shepelytskyi**. Dr. Shepelytskyi will work with collaborators at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre to develop a novel MRI Time-of-Flight (TOF) pulse sequence to be used in hyperpolarized 129-xenon perfusion imaging for the detection and clinical management of neurological diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. This award is valued at \$120,000 over two years.

Mitacs is a national, not-for-profit organization that leverages federal and provincial funds to deliver research and training programs in Canada. Working with more than 70 universities and 6,000 companies and non-profits across the country, Mitacs supports industrial and social innovation, while providing unique training opportunities for post-secondary and graduate students, both in Canada and abroad.



## Radialis Medical Submits FDA 510(k) Premarket Notification for its Organ-Targeted PET Camera

Radialis Medical announced that it has submitted a U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) 510(k) premarket notification for the Radialis PET Camera, an organ-targeted positron emission tomography system whose underlying technology was developed, in part, by **Dr. Alla Reznik**, Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Physics of Radiation Medical Imaging at Lakehead University and a scientist at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute.

“Emerging radiotracers being developed for PET imaging allow specific disease processes to be visualized and facilitate precision medicine. The Radialis PET Camera is the first organ-targeted PET system focused on low-dose PET imaging of multiple diseases,” said **Dr. Alla Reznik**, Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Physics of Radiation Medical Imaging at Lakehead and a Scientist and the TBRHRI.

The University Health Network-Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (UNH-PMCC) in Toronto is currently using the Radialis PET Camera in a study titled “Evaluating Positron Emission Mammography Imaging of Suspicious Breast Abnormalities” (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03520218).

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## New NOHFC Internship Awards

Lakehead University has received three Internship Awards from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). Under the Workforce Development Stream, these positions help develop Northern Ontario’s workforce by providing internships to new entrants in the workforce, those transitioning to a new career, or those who are unemployed or underemployed and are entering a new field.

### Research Internships

- **Dr. Zubair Fadlullah**, Department of Computer Science, "Biomedical Image Processing & Analytics with Explainable AI", \$31,082.
- **Dr. Tarlok Sahota**, Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station, "Research and Extension Intern", \$35,000.

### Administrative Internship

- **Robin Sutherland**, Director of Indigenous Relations, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, "Office of Indigenous Relations Position", \$35,000.



## Lakehead University research team will examine critical issues with Ontario's food systems

**Dr. Charles Levkoe** is receiving \$100,000 from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and \$50,000 from Lakehead University to offer critical insight into some of Ontario's most important food systems-related issues.



Dr. Levkoe and his team will study civil society networks, social movements, and food systems governance with the goal of enhancing food security, climate action, democratic engagement, and social and environmental justice in connection with food systems. This community-engaged, action-oriented research will study the evolution of civil society networks rooted in place-based initiatives. The research team will engage in food systems governance through participatory decision-making, policy interventions, and active democratic participation.

Beyond providing direct value to Ontario's civil society networks, food studies scholars and policy makers, Dr. Levkoe's research will also serve as the basis for a national and global exchange of knowledge and experiences, leading to new capacity for innovation in democratic and participatory food systems governance – comprised of policies, laws, and regulations that shape and influence the nature of our food systems.

Details about Dr. Levkoe's research can be found at [foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca](https://foodsystems.lakeheadu.ca).

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## Local and Global Partnerships

### Province's GO-VAXX bus visits Lakehead

On October 6, the province's GO-VAXX bus was setup at Lakehead's Orillia campus offering students, faculty, staff and the community the opportunity to receive first or second doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The bus offered a convenient option to get vaccinated, and supported Lakehead's goal of achieving a high rate of vaccination amongst our community.

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## Centre on Education and Lifelong Learning

The Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) series began on September 15th: *System Failure?: The Changing Economy*. This series features Dame Frances Cairncross (*The Economist*), Dr. Andreas Park (Rotman), Jeffrey C. Martin ("The Generation Effect"), Dr. Bipasha Baruah (Western) and Lakehead's own **Dr. Todd Dufresne**. Over 120 households are tuning in on zoom each week. O next series will be hosted by Thunder Bay (and is in development with a seniors advisory group from Thunder Bay) and begin in November.

The Ontario Master Naturalist Program's fall certificate is in session with a full cohort of participants. Later this fall a workshop will be offered as part of YOCA - Naturalists in the Know: Responding to the Climate Crisis - on November 22.

Consultations will begin this fall with elders and youth from local First Nations in the Simcoe County area. These will inform the launch of "Truth and Reconciliation in our Community: Enabling Indigenous-led Dialogue". This project is funded by a SSHRC Connection grant.

In the past year, CELL programming had 1436 participants - and we're excited to keep growing!

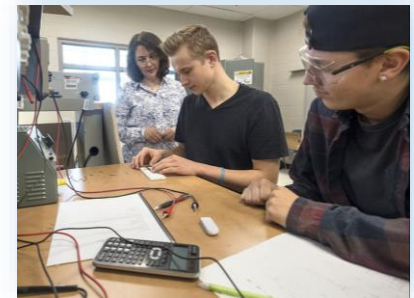
## Lakehead-Georgian Partnership's Electrical Engineering Program Receives CEAB Accreditation

Our Lakehead-Georgian Partnership's Electrical Engineering degree program has received the maximum possible accreditation from the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB). This represents a powerful endorsement of the Lakehead-Georgian Partnership's vision to offer a unique Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree in Simcoe County.

The CEAB is the professional body responsible for the accreditation of all undergraduate engineering programs across Canada. To be accredited, an undergraduate engineering program must meet or exceed educational standards including, graduate attributes, curriculum content and quality, program environment, and continual improvement.

Lakehead has a long history of offering accredited engineering programs at its Thunder Bay campus dating back to the original offerings in 1974.

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## Achievement Program MOU Welcomes Keewatin-Patricia District School Board

Students with the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board will have a greater chance of attending university thanks to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with Lakehead University on Thursday, Sept. 16.

Current and future Grade 4 students from Sioux Mountain Public School in Sioux Lookout who are eligible will now have the opportunity to enroll in Lakehead University's Achievement Program. Students who are eligible to participate (those facing barriers to postsecondary education) will attend special on-campus programming at the University and meet certain criteria to earn financial support toward their first year of tuition at Lakehead University.

The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities, attended the signing event on Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus.

Lakehead President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson signed the MOU with Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education at the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board.

Lakehead introduced the program in 2011 to help students obtain a postsecondary education at the University. Eligible participants enrol in Grade 4 and continue with the program until Grade 12, with annual opportunities to earn financial assistance by completing specific requirements at their school, in their community, and at Lakehead University.

At the end of the nine years, the accrued value of each student's financial support will help fund their first year at Lakehead University. Lakehead provides additional spots each year, based on available funding, for eligible students to enrol.

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*From left, Dr. Moira McPherson, President and Vice-Chancellor, is pictured alongside Amanda Stefanile, Achievement Program Coordinator, and the Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities, at the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Lakehead University and the Keewatin-Patricia*





## OpenText and Lakehead University to create internships for Indigenous students

*OpenText* and Lakehead University have announced the OpenText Indigenous Internship Program that will create up to 25 full-time summer internship opportunities for Indigenous students studying at Lakehead's Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses.

The four-month internships will allow students to intern remotely at *OpenText* in the software engineering, marketing, finance, information technology, and human resources departments, where they will gain valuable soft and technical skills, confidence and knowledge that will better prepare them to enter the workforce.

The addition of the *OpenText* Indigenous Internship Program will expand the innovative experiential learning opportunities offered to students on Lakehead's campuses and demonstrates the University's commitment to helping Indigenous students further their educational aspirations.

Lakehead has over a thousand self-identified Indigenous students enrolled in 2020, which represents 12 per cent of the University's domestic student population – one of the highest enrolments of self-identified Indigenous students among Ontario universities.

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## Social Responsibility

### Lakehead Engineering Students Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Bus Pull supports Big Brothers Big Sisters

On October 5, the Engineering Students Society of Lakehead University (ESS) held its 40th annual charity bus pull. Teams competed to pull a school bus around the Agora Circle in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters, a division of Our Kids Count!

The bus pull for Big Brothers Big Sisters Thunder Bay is an ESS tradition started by students in 1980. ESS chooses Big Brothers Big Sisters because they offer mentor programs for young people and hopes that Lakehead students will get involved and inspire younger generations to consider a career in engineering.





## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### 2022 Research & Innovation Week: Planetary Stewardship

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation is pleased to announce that Research & Innovation Week 2022 will be held from Monday, March 7 – Friday, March 11. In alignment with the Year of Climate Action (YOCA), the theme of this year's R&I Week will be **Planetary Stewardship**. This weeklong event will again be hosted virtually this year to celebrate the accomplishments of our Thunder Bay and Orillia researchers. More information will be available soon at <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/research-and-innovation/week>.



### Ingenuity Launches Fall Events

*Ingenuity* has launched their fall calendar of events, which includes collaborations with community partners such as PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise and the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre. *Ingenuity* is also working with the University of British Columbia on developing and delivering workshops. The annual Pitch competition is in the planning stages and will be happening during Global Entrepreneurship Week in November.

