



President's Report to Senate

January
2022





Office of the President

Lakehead University Receives more than \$216k on Giving Tuesday for Student Financial Aid

Lakehead University officials were blown away by the more than \$216,000 donated to student financial aid on Giving Tuesday, thanks to donations from alumni, friends of the university, faculty, staff, and other donors.

Lakehead's goal was \$52,500, which was the reason Dr. Moira McPherson, President and Vice-Chancellor, was impressed by the exceptional amount they raised.

Several major donors jumped at the chance to increase their existing awards, or establish new ones, due to a matching-gift incentive. In the weeks leading up to the event, alumni and friends were encouraged to participate on social media.

The majority of Lakehead's donors were from Canada, primarily Ontario. But Lakehead also received several international gifts, from as far away as Finland and China.

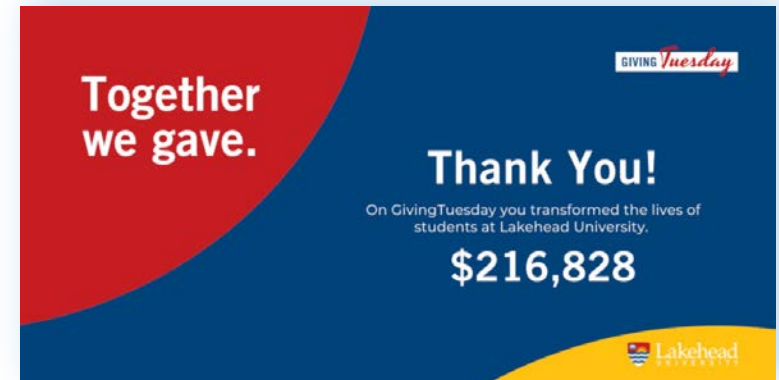
Lakehead once again held a competition between alumni from different decades, with 80s graduates outpacing all other decades.

Due to the tremendous turnout from Lakehead donors, eight new awards were created at the University, and contributions were made to dozens of endowed funds.

This brings the total to more than \$540,000 that Lakehead has received on Giving Tuesday since the University first started participating in 2016.

To watch a thank you video, press play [here](#).

[Click here to view media release...](#)





Ma-Nee Chacaby Receives the Community Hero Award

Ma-Nee Chacaby, a Two-Spirit Ojibwa-Cree elder and storyteller, received the Community Hero Award on Monday, Dec. 6 at the City of Thunder Bay's annual Mayor's Community Safety Awards.

Ma-Nee generously shares her knowledge and skills with the Thunder Bay community, including with the Lakehead University Elders Council.

Her visibility as an out and proud Two-Spirit person — in the film *Fire Song*, in text with her own story *A Two-Spirit Journey: The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder*, and through digital story-telling — helps increase public awareness for 2SLGBTIQ+ experiences, and broadens the conversation around crucial Indigenous history like the impacts of residential and day schools.

For decades, Ma-Nee's community work and volunteering has been extensive.

She spends time counselling youth who find themselves at risk of poor outcomes, individuals struggling with addictions and homelessness, and people living with HIV.

Ma-Nee encourages and supports language revitalization, ensures that cultural teachings survive to reach future generations, and improves a sense of community belonging and safety through her mentorship of youth. In addition to serving on many committees, including the City of Thunder Bay Elders Advisory Council, Ma-Nee mentors a number of grassroots groups and supports their vital community safety and well-being efforts.

Watch a video about Ma-Nee and other recipients [here](#).





Academic Excellence

Lakehead University Researchers Receiving more than \$3 million in Funding

Lakehead University professors are able to perform important research thanks to the more than \$2.1 million in NSERC grants and approximately \$1.15 million in funding from partner organizations.



Dr. Pete Hollings, NOHFC Industrial Research Chair in Mineral Exploration and Geology professor, is receiving five Alliance grants worth \$1.03 million and an additional \$655,000 from his partner organizations, including Clean Air Metals Inc., Impala Canada, Enersoft and Generation Mining, and Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd.

For one of those projects, Dr. Hollings is receiving \$180,000 from NSERC and \$90,000 from Wesdome Gold Mines to focus on the Eagle River Complex in the Mishibishu greenstone belt – located 50 km west of Wawa. Dr. Hollings will work with two graduate students over the next three years.

Dr. Amanda Diochon, Associate Professor in Geology, is receiving an Alliance grant of \$172,506 and \$107,816 from her partner, Grain Farmers of Ontario to evaluate the effect of land conversion practices on soil health and the yields of barley and oats.



Dr. Ashley Thomson, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management, is receiving an Alliance grant of nearly \$80,000 and \$40,000 from partners Resolute Forest Products and the Superior-woods Tree Improvement Association.

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Lakehead Professors Receiving \$818k from SSHRC for Exciting Research with Community Partners

Lakehead University research teams are receiving more than \$818,000 in Partnership Engage Grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for their important studies.

Dr. Charles Levkoe, Associate Professor in Health Sciences at Lakehead University and Canada Research Chair in Equitable and Sustainable Food Systems, is receiving \$25,000 to design and create a Thunder Bay and Area Food Systems Report Card by partnering with the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy (TBAFS) – in collaboration with several community partners including EcoSuperior, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, and the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre.



Dr. Rebecca Schiff, Chair and Professor in the Department of Health Sciences, is a co-investigator on the project with Dr. Levkoe. She is also the primary investigator on a project receiving more than \$24,000 to implement a voluntary local review of the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals in Thunder Bay.



Dr. Ravi Gokani, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, and his research team will help the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) gain more institutional knowledge and capacity regarding the migration of homeless people to the area from other provinces.



Dr. Gary Pluim, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead Orillia, and his team have received a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant worth \$155,000 to study the processes of sharing curriculum among countries of the Commonwealth.



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Lakehead Professor Awarded Alex Trebek Medal for Contributions to Geographic Literacy in Canada

The Royal Canadian Geographic Society awarded Lakehead lecturer **Randy Wilkie** with the Alex Trebek Medal, which acknowledges the late Trebek's support for the Royal Canadian Geographic Society, particularly its educational programs for Canadian youth.

Mr. Wilkie is a lecturer in the Faculty of Education in Thunder Bay.

Presented annually, this prestigious medal recognizes an educator who has made significant contributions to geographic literacy in Canada.

In a variety of roles and settings, dedicated individuals create and support programs, initiatives and events that improve and enhance geographic literacy among young Canadians.

The RCGS recognizes the award recipient for their hard work, courtesy of the Phyllis Arnold Endowment Fund to an individual, in both the private and public sectors, and for contributing to the advancement of geographic education throughout Canada.

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Lakehead-led Research Team Receives \$1.2M to Investigate Cancer Prevention using Traditional Healing

A Lakehead University professor and her research team in partnership with traditional knowledge holders and Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig Health Access Centre (WNHAC) are receiving \$1.2 million in CIHR funding to explore the efficacy of using traditional healing to prevent cancer.

Dr. Lana Ray, Assistant Professor in Indigenous Learning at Lakehead and the University's Indigenous Research Chair in Decolonial Futures, will work with WNHAC, traditional knowledge holders, and researchers from Lakehead University, Nipissing University and the University of Toronto to carry out the work over five years.

This project will implement traditional healing activities to address the impacts of colonialism in WNHAC's service area. It will evaluate the impacts of the intervention through a pre- and post-design that will explore and measure risks and protective factors.

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Lakehead University Awarded \$224,150 to Assist in the Recovery of Ontario's Tourism Industry

Lakehead University has been awarded \$224,150 by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities as part of the [Ontario Micro-credentials Challenge Fund](#) to develop micro-credentials focused on strengthening Ontario's tourism industry.

The Ontario Professional Tourism Industry Specialist (OPTIS)/Northern Ontario Professional Tourism Industry Specialist (NOPTIS) will begin to be offered in Fall 2022 and will consist of six modules addressing the essential elements of the tourism industry.

Announced in April 2021, the Ontario Micro-credentials Challenge Fund is intended to accelerate the development of micro-credentials and expand program offerings. Ontario postsecondary institutions, working with local industry and employers were encouraged to submit a proposal to apply for funding to develop new or expand existing micro-credentials.

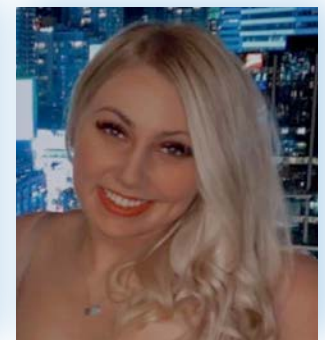
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Music Students Win at International Music Competition

Lakehead University music students finished in first and second place in the 2022 Crescendo International Music Competition.

Evelyn Davenport won first in the piano category and **Jessica Hayes** won second in the voice category. Both students have been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City this winter.

Congratulations to Evelyn and Jessica and their teachers, Evgeny Chugunov, piano, and Kim Erickson, voice, for this important achievement!





"Rosies of the North" History Website Project

The Department of History is pleased to announce that **Kelly Saxberg**, **Nathan Hatton**, and **Ron Harpelle** have been awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the Thunder Bay Foundation to produce an interactive oral history website focused on the contributions of local women during the Second World War at the Canadian Car and Foundry plant.

The Rosies of the North interactive website will be based on interviews and documents obtained during the production of Kelly Saxberg's *Rosies of the North*, (National Film Board of Canada, 1999) and a collection of historical documents recently obtained from Bombardier Transportation.

The department members will also be collaborating with Dr. Jeanette Lynes, (*The Factory Voice* Coteau Books, 2009), formerly of the Department of English at Lakehead University and now at the University of Saskatchewan.

Members of the public will be encouraged to contribute photos, documents and stories about women who worked at the plant during the war and History students working towards a Public History Specialization will also be given opportunities to participate in the project, which is being undertaken with the support of the Friends of the Finnish Labour Temple and the Northwestern Ontario Aviation Heritage Centre.

Local and Global Partnerships

Give the Gift of Lifelong Learning this Year

The Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning's (CELL) much *12 Days of Learning* returned for the holidays and offered even more unique, exclusive experiences than last year.

From learning to grill the perfect steak, to joining a climate change book club, CELL partnered with individuals and businesses in our communities to curate a unique series of gifts. Each experience came with a printable gift certificate and additional items for participants.

[Click here for more information about the 12 Days of Learning.](#)





Trinity School of Medicine and Lakehead University Enter into Partnership

On November 29, the Lakehead University and the Trinity School of Medicine to announce its new partnership to provide Lakehead students a clear, defined path to becoming a practicing Medical Doctor and allow students the unique opportunity for global education.

Along with a waived application fee and scholarships exclusively available to Lakehead students, Trinity School of Medicine will provide a streamlined admissions process, granting conditional acceptance to applicants that meet TSOM's academic acceptance requirements specified. This benefit will drastically decrease the amount of time and effort it usually takes to complete and process medical school applications.

In addition to an easier pathway to acceptance, Trinity School of Medicine will allow selected Lakehead students in the undergraduate science program each year the opportunity to participate in a mini-clerkship session at their learning facilities and teaching hospital in Warner Robins, Georgia, USA. Students will attend lectures with Trinity Medical Sciences University students and rotate in select clinical rotations. Lakehead students will meet Trinity faculty and hospital leadership to see firsthand what it is like to attend medical school.

Under the agreement, Lakehead will also provide TMSU students the possibility to transition into several of Lakehead's undergraduate degree programs. Dr. Todd Randall, Lakehead's Dean of the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies, noted that "through this partnership, we are welcoming new students into our programs, while also providing both domestic and international students the opportunity to chase their dreams of becoming medical professionals."

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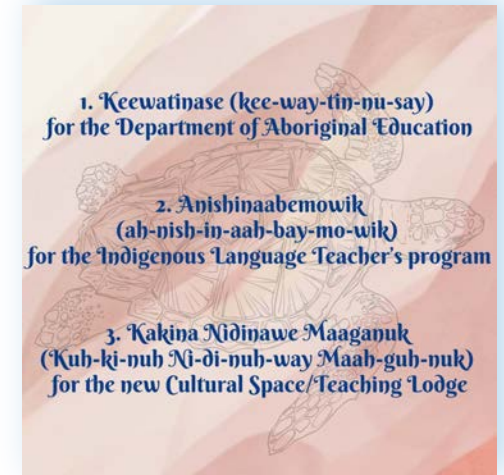




Ojibwe Spirit Names Gifted to Department of Aboriginal Education

In October 2021, the Department of Aboriginal Education passed a significant milestone in the rites of passage for Indigenous organizations. A Chiiskan (Turtle Lodge) naming ceremony took place that resulted in the gifting of three spiritual names: one for the Department, one for the Department's Indigenous language programs, and one for the new cultural space/teaching lodge that is being built in the Faculty of Education's Bora Laskin building (Thunder Bay campus).

The naming ceremony, conducted by Elder Nelly Mesenegeeshik (spirit name Miskwankodook) took place on Fort William First Nations land. It followed ceremonial protocol, including the presentation of Asema (tobacco), a gift, a feast, and the harvesting of poles to build the lodge. Miskwankodook and her ceremonial helpers conducted the Chiiskan, and the information and protocols for honouring the names was documented by Tyler Armstrong (Contract Lecturer; Interim Program Coordinator for Anishinaabemowik/the Native Language Instructors Program).



Gifted Name for the Department of Aboriginal Education

Keewatinase (pronounced kee-way-tin-nu-say): The name Keewatinase refers to an Ancestral Grandmother who sits in the Northern Doorway. This Grandmother stepped forward to oversee the holistic mental health of each person, including the aspects that provide us with a healthy mind, such as learning, sharing, and facilitating knowledge.

Gifted Name for the Indigenous Language Programs

Anishinaabemowik (pronounced ah-nish-in-aah-bay-mo-wik): Anishinaabemowik is a female spirit. During the ceremony, the importance of women and their strength was discussed. Women are a vital part of community and provide life, love, teaching, and knowledge.

Gifted Name for the Cultural Space/Teaching Lodge

Kakina Nidinawe Maaganuk (pronounced Kuh-ki-nuh Ni-di-nuh-way Maah-guh-nuk): Kakina Nidinawe Maaganuk translates to "all my relations." During the ceremony the importance of people coming together, working together, and showing love, kindness, and respect for one another was discussed. It was stressed that this new cultural space will be for everyone to use; everyone will be welcomed. The idea of "all my relations" is explained by Leroy Little Bear (2000), who suggests that "if everything is animate, then everything has spirit and knowledge. If everything has spirit and knowledge, then all are like me. If all are like me, then all are my relations."¹ In other words, all my relations are everyone and everything.



Centre for Healthy Ecosystems and Environmentally Conscious Economic Development

Lakehead University is pleased to announce that it has been approved for \$467,400 in funding from FedNor and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC) for the development of the Centre for Healthy Ecosystems and Environmentally Conscious Economic Development (CHEECED). This new Centre, led by **Dr. Amanda Diochon**, will be a key pillar in advancing and sustaining the forestry sector, maintaining and attracting mining-related industries in the region, and expanding agriculture in the most cost-efficient and sustainable way. The CHEECED will enhance Lakehead University's analytical capacity through the purchase of cutting-edge equipment, and is designed to be a centralized hub within the region for research and development in the areas of green materials and value-added products.

Lakehead University would like to thank NOHFC and FedNor for their financial commitment, and our industry partners who supported the application, including Impala Canada, Resolute Forest Products, Clean Air Metals Inc., SUEZ Water Technologies and Solutions, Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance and Thunder Bay's Community Economic Development Corporation. The goal is to continue to build and grow these partnerships, and establish new partners in the region to enhance sustainable economic development. The CHEECED will not only lead to new innovative projects and partnerships, but will also create 33 new positions for highly qualified personnel over the next five years, which will add the much-needed capacity to the trained work-force in Northern Ontario.

Centre on Education and Lifelong Learning

Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) launched its next series, "On Happiness", on January 12. It featured Dr. Gillian Mandich, head of the International Happiness Institute, neuroscientist Dr. Dean Burnett (The Happy Brain), analyst Oksana Kishchuk, Marketing and Psychology professor Dr. Sam Maglio (Rotman), and Nina Purewal, author of *Let that Sh*t Go!*

CELL received three grants totaling \$24,842 from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation in December 2021, enabling it to launch two initiatives in collaboration with the Lakehead District School Board and the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board: the "Youth CQ Certification - Embracing Diversity", and an arts-based 'Reach Ahead' experience for those enrolled in the Special High Skills Major Program.

Funding also enabled the development and implementation of a series of therapeutic adventure workshops for frontline workers.



Lakehead Receiving \$100k from *Bell Let's Talk* to Support Students' Mental Health

On January 12, *Bell Let's Talk* announced \$1 million in grants to 16 Canadian post-secondary schools, including \$100,000 to Lakehead University.

The funding will assist with Lakehead's initiative to support students' mental health by building individual capacity to sustain well-being and increase the availability and scope of resources accessible to students.

The initiative includes a mental health screening program, increased training for members of Lakehead's campus communities to recognize signs of distress, the development of a mental health dashboard and a campus-wide anti-stigma campaign.

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Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Major CFI Innovation Fund (IF) Funding

Dr. Maryam Ebrahimi, Canada Research Chair in Low-Dimensional Nanomaterials (Tier 2), Department of Chemistry, is co-lead on a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Innovation Fund grant that was awarded to the University of Waterloo. The title of the project is *Advanced Materials Ontario: Harnessing the power of multifunctional materials for new technologies*. As part of her participation in the project, Dr. Ebrahimi will receive a total of \$1.8 million from the CFI and the Ontario Research Fund for the purchase of a Low-temperature Scanning Probe Microscope.

Ingenuity

Ingenuity along with its community partner the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre hosted its annual *Pitch It* competition on November 10. The event was hosted in a hybrid model with participants and judges in the Ingenuity Connections Theatre and the audience joining via zoom. A cash prize of \$1500 was sponsored by the Northern Ontario Angels and awarded. A Lakehead student, **Louis Johnson**, took the People Choice Award for his business idea, Bahama Links.



Thanks to an external donation, *Ingenuity* is in the process of awarding a \$5,000 start-up fund to an Indigenous student entrepreneur. The student was selected in late December and work has already begun to develop their business idea.