

**September
2018**

President's Report to Senate



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

A million reasons to smile

Lakehead University's new Centre for Advanced Studies in Engineering and Sciences (CASES) received a welcome boost from the City of Thunder Bay during City Council's July 23, 2018 meeting.

City Council unanimously approved a \$1 million commitment to CASES, a building renovation and expansion project that will help position Lakehead University and Northwestern Ontario as a key Canadian research and innovation hub by improving the scale and quality of leading research, training, and entrepreneurship.

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2018-2023 Strategic Plan

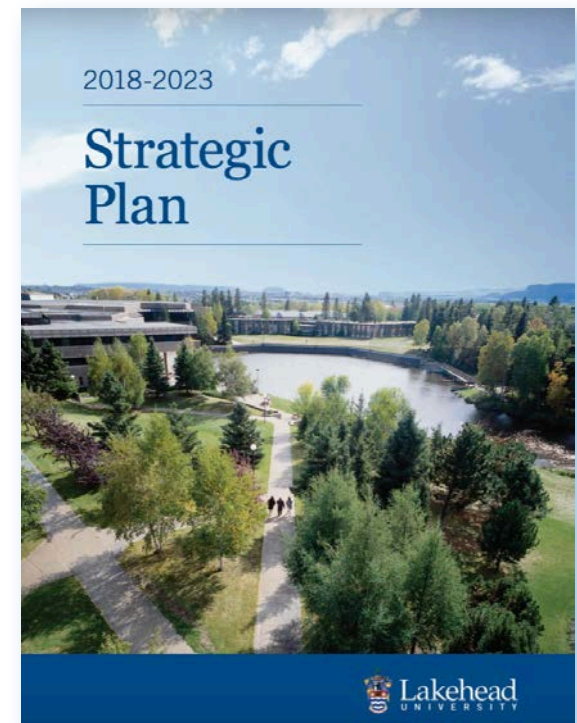
Following Senate's endorsement, Lakehead University's Board of Governors approved our 2018-2023 Strategic Plan.

The overarching goal of this Strategic Plan is to strengthen Lakehead University's vision of providing a transformative university experience grounded in exceptional scholarship and student potential.

Lakehead University's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan is built around five interrelated and interconnected strategic themes:

- **Academic Excellence,**
- **Social Responsibility,**
- **Local and Global Partnerships**
- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**
- **Capacity Development.**

[*Click here to view 2018-2023 Strategic Plan website...*](#)





Lakehead University celebrating exceptional people at this year's convocation

Lakehead University recognized six exceptional people at this year's convocation ceremonies on Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2 at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

Canadian Sports Broadcaster **Ron MacLean**, Porter Airlines' President & CEO **Robert Deluce**, and former Ryerson University President and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development **Sheldon Levy** each received an honorary degree for their remarkable achievements. Lakehead also honored the dedication of **Beverly Sabourin**, **Jim Symington**, and **Pentti Paularinne** by naming them Fellows of the University.

More than 1,700 students graduated during the three Thunder Bay ceremonies and more than 400 graduated from the Orillia convocation ceremony that was held on Saturday, June 9.

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



Lakehead University Orillia's honorary degree and Civitas Award recipients

Deborah Martin-Downs, ecologist and conservationist, was the recipient of an honorary degree, and **Bruce Waite**, lawyer, philanthropist and accomplished community leader, received the Civitas Award at Lakehead University Orillia's June 2018 Convocation.

Lakehead University confers honorary degrees in celebration and recognition of individuals who make significant contributions in their areas of experience and support the values of advanced learning and pursuit of knowledge. The *Civitas Award* recognizes significant contributions to the university and the community by members of the County of Simcoe.

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Lakehead University student's art featured on new coin

A fourth-year visual arts student at Lakehead University says it feels incredible to have designed one side of a new coin for the Royal Canadian Mint.

The Royal Canadian Mint asked **Mary McPherson** to participate in the design process for the new coin.

She was thrilled when the Mint chose her image of Tecumseh, a legendary Shawnee war leader who allied himself with the British and heroically led hundreds of First Nations warriors into battle at such places as Fort Meigs and most famously, Detroit.

Released on Tuesday, Sept. 4, the new coin recognizes the 250th anniversary of Tecumseh's birth.

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Mary McPherson pictured in front of her 2017 drawing, Scene of my Elders Emerging from an Inauthentic Past.

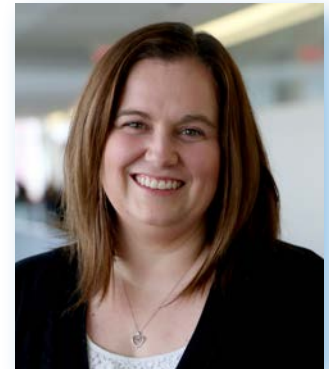


Achieving Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Research

Lakehead's newest Research Facilitator

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation is pleased to welcome our newest Research Facilitator. **Dr. Rebecca Fisher-Heffernan** who joined Lakehead University in August 2018 as the first Research and Strategic Initiatives Facilitator based in Orillia.

Dr. Fisher-Heffernan provides leadership on strategies to increase research and innovation capacity at the Orillia campus, as well as connect Orillia researchers to other Lakehead research collaborators, opportunities, and community and private sector partners in Simcoe County and beyond. She will also help to facilitate research and innovation events in Orillia. Dr. Fisher-Heffernan completed her graduate studies at the University of Guelph. Following the completion of her doctoral program, she was a recipient of a Mitacs Elevate Postdoctoral Fellowship.



Rennie receives grant to restore Great Lakes' ecology

Earlier this year, Lakehead University's **Dr. Michael Rennie** received an Early Researcher Award of \$100,000 through the Ontario Ministry of Research, Innovation, and Science.

With an additional \$50,000 from Lakehead University, the five-year grant supports Dr. Rennie's research to restore the ecology of lakes negatively impacted by industry.

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Dr. Michael Rennie demonstrates the proper use of a Van Dorn bottle to students participating in the 2015 Experimental Limnology and Aquatic Ecology course.



Professor studied 1.4 billion-year-old rocks to determine abundance of life on Earth



Lakehead University Geology's **Dr. Phil Fralick** is part of a team of researchers who collaborated on an article exploring oxygen and life that was featured on *Nature.com*, this past summer.

The article describes how the researchers used gypsum from east of Thunder Bay to determine if there was as much life on Earth approximately one billion, four hundred million years ago as there is now.

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Research could help reduce risk for experiencing postpartum depression

Lakehead PhD candidate **Carley Pope** aims to one day help women reduce the risk for postpartum depression. She discussed her research on maternal mental health at a media event in the Agora at Lakehead University on July 31.

Pope has been doing a studentship for Mental Health Research Canada since 2016 that ends in March 2019. Her research explores the benefits of mindfulness on pregnant women and in combatting postpartum depressive symptoms.

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How has climate change affected the boreal forest?

Thanks to a \$440,000 Strategic Partnership Grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, **Dr. Han Chen**, a professor in Natural Resources Management, will spend three years working with a team of researchers from Lakehead University, the University of Alberta and the University of Winnipeg to examine how climate change has affected western-central boreal forests in Canada over the last 60 years. The team will train a number of PhD students who will help explore strategies to mitigate climate change stresses and assess the consequences of climate change on future wood supply.

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Researchers shed new insight into fate of Franklin Expedition

A team of academic researchers from MacEwan University, **Lakehead University (Anthropology's Dr. Tamara Varney)**, Western University, Trent University, University of Waterloo, and Canadian Light Source at the University of Saskatchewan, have shed new light on a historic mystery. Did the crew die because lead poisoning played a pivotal role in the loss of the Franklin Expedition? The research report published in *PLOS ONE*, the world's first multidisciplinary Open Access journal, suggests otherwise.



Dr. Tamara Varney
Photo by TBNewswatch

The Franklin Expedition began in the summer of 1845 under the command of Sir John Franklin when 128 officers and crew aboard the ships *HMS Erebus* and *HMS Terror* entered the waters of Arctic North America with the goal of completing the discovery of the Northwest Passage. The following year, the ships became stranded in ice off King William Island where they remained until April 1848. By this time the crew, now reduced to 105 men, made a desperate attempt to reach the mainland. Sadly, not one individual survived.

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Lakehead researcher exploring new ways to discover mines

A Lakehead University researcher is playing a key role in an international project to improve the way companies discover new mines.

Dr. Peter Hollings is collaborating with researchers at the Centre for Ore Deposit and Earth Sciences (CODES) at the University of Tasmania. This \$2.36 million (CAD) project is funded by 11 mining companies and is part of AMIRA International's *Far field and near mine footprints – Finding and defining the next generation of Tier 1 ore deposits* project.

Dr. Hollings will spend the next three years developing tools that will help mining companies discover new ore deposits by investigating changes in the chemistry of minerals around the mineralized areas.

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Extend Community Engagement and Outreach

Canada's brightest youth at SHAD for intense enrichment and entrepreneurship

Starting in 1980, SHAD immerses students from grades 10-12 in a one-month enrichment program focused on STEAM: science, technology, engineering, arts and math. During Lakehead's 2018 SHAD program, coordinated by Dr. Sultan Siddiqui, students came to our campus to interact with renowned University faculty and visionary corporate leaders. In one exercise, students were challenged to derive an original solution to a societal problem. SHAD teaches participants about entrepreneurship and innovation and leaves the students seeing how they can make an immediate impact.

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2018 Bill Keeler Memorial Golf Classic

Dr. Michel Beaulieu, President of the Alumni Association of Lakehead University, as well as several Lakehead University students, were at Whitewater Golf Club on August 14 to greet participants of the Bill Keeler Memorial Golf Classic.

Gillian Hansen, who plays on Lakehead's varsity women's volleyball team, thanked the 148 participants of the annual Golf Classic, which raised \$55,302.01 for student financial aid and student athletes.

RBC was once again the title sponsor of the annual golf classic.

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Lakehead's Fall Orientation helps students transition to university

The Student Success Centre, Residence & Conference Services, and the Lakehead University Student Union organized this year's *Thunderwolves Howl!* Orientation from August 29 - September 1. Events and activities catered to students entering from high school, college/university transfers (including our new Lakehead-Georgian Partnership students), as well as international, Aboriginal and mature students were well attended.

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Enhance Support of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Students

Science Week Introduces Indigenous Youth to Careers in Natural Resources

Forty-five Indigenous youth from 25 communities were in Thunder Bay during the first week of August learning about geocaching, cartography, sustainable energy, entrepreneurship and more as part of Science Week for the First Nation Natural Resource Youth Employment Program (FNNRYEP) and the Outland Youth Employment Program (OYEP). The youth and their counsellors are part of sister programs at Sandbar and Mink Lake summer camps, a collaborative project between industry, the province, and Confederation College and Lakehead University.

Since 2000, Outland Camps has partnered with Confederation College and Lakehead University to offer land-based education training and employment programs for Indigenous youth in Ontario. To date, the partnership has resulted in over 430 participants from 55 communities completing the programs.

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Jason Freeburn, a technologist with Lakehead University's Geography department, demonstrates how to use a GPS device in a geocaching exercise with Indigenous youth from Mink Lake and Sandbar summer camps.



Indigenous people from different countries gathering for unique tourism discussion



Earlier this year, faculty, staff and students from Lakehead University, York University and partner university Escuela Superior Politécnica de Chimborazo (ESPOCH) visited Indigenous leaders from Ecuador and Ontario in traditional territory belonging to Comuna Kichwa Verde Sumaco and Lac Seul First Nation. The goal of this pilot project, funded by SSHRC Connections, is to seek solidarity in overcoming challenges and describing opportunities in nature- and culture-based tourism.

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Assembly of First Nations supports Indigenous Certificate in Geological Studies

In late July, a collaborative effort between a number of First Nations and Métis community groups and education authorities and our departments of Chemistry, English, Geology, Mathematics, and Physics was rewarded when the Assembly of First Nations voted at its annual meeting in British Columbia to support the development of an Indigenous Certificate in Geological Studies at Lakehead University.

The goal is to develop a science-based university program that will support Indigenous Peoples as they engage in sustainable economic development, set program goals, and discuss co-regulation with provincial and territorial governments on lands and resources. Best of all, the certificate will be delivered in First Nations and Métis communities.

[Click here to view Communications Bulletin...](#)

Expand our International Reach

Lakehead University welcomes record number of international students

Lakehead University welcomed 700 new international students, this year — a new record. More than 600 of them from approximately 65 countries participated in our International Orientation held at the Hangar on Wednesday, Aug. 29.

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Students from approximately 65 countries learned about services offered at Lakehead University and in the community at our International Orientation.





Two Mexican MOU's signed and international panel presentation

The Canada and Latin America Research & Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) Consortium signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with The National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico (CONACyT) in Mexico City on May 24, 2018. The MOU will promote scholarly collaboration between Canada and Mexico in basic and applied sciences, including biotechnology, medicine, environmental and agricultural sciences, energy, and nanotechnology.

I represented the consortium, whose members include Memorial University of Newfoundland, Carleton University, École de Technologie Supérieure, University of Lethbridge, and Vancouver Island University.



Lakehead University and the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi have been partners through our joint membership in the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE) and have been discussing direct academic collaboration between our institutions for the past 2 years.

In November 2016, a delegation from Lakehead visited the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi to further discuss collaboration and joint academic activities, as well as student and faculty mobility opportunities. Both institutions recognize the importance of the internationalization of higher education in providing new opportunities and expanding the vision and perspectives of students, staff and faculty.

As a result of these activities and the opportunities provided by Universities Canada and its Mexican counterpart, the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES), and IOHE, the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi and Lakehead University decided to formalize their relationship and signed an MoU with a focus on joint research, student and faculty mobility, short-term exchanges and dual degree opportunities.

Finally, I had the honour of presenting at, and participating in, an international panel entitled *Indigenizing higher education: How universities in Canada and Mexico are bringing Indigenous peoples, cultures and knowledge to campus*. Panelists shared their experiences and best practices for integrating Indigenous knowledge in research, education and governance. This provided me the opportunity to share our long-standing and continuing efforts to bring Indigenous content into our curriculum and to establish positive social and cultural places.



Lakehead's *Proyecta 10,000* scholarship students

On Thursday, July 19, Lakehead University International hosted a welcome reception for Héctor Javier Rayón Martínez, Deputy Director of Technological Universities for the Government of the State of Mexico. Attending the event were 153 Mexican students who studied in our 4-week Academic English Program, this summer.



The students were participants in the *Proyecta 10,000* scholarship, which aims to support 10,000 Mexican students, teachers and researchers to study in Canada by 2018. Through this scholarship, Lakehead University had the opportunity to welcome a total of 400 Mexican students during the summer of 2018.



Strengthen our Commitment to Social Justice

Lakehead University joins Thunder Bay Anti-Racism & Inclusion Coalition

On June 19, Lakehead University was among eleven major Thunder Bay organizations that signed an Anti-Racism & Inclusion Accord at City Hall. This coalition announced that it would commit to establishing goals and report on successes by working together to address racism and discrimination in the community.

The Accord and Calls to Action set the stage for each member organization to commit to:

1. Addressing racism against Indigenous and racialized persons by setting short- and long-term goals to meet the calls to action or recommendations.
2. Supporting an ongoing process of truth & reconciliation throughout their organization and in our community by developing and maintaining respectful relations with Indigenous governments, organizations and individuals,
3. Reporting on goals, annually, beginning in June 2019.

The following CEOs/CAOs were in attendance to sign the Accord:

- Norm Gale, City of Thunder Bay (Coalition Co-Chair)
- Ken Ogima, Fort William First Nation (Coalition Co-Chair)
- Moira McPherson, Lakehead University
- Sylvie Hauth, Thunder Bay Police Services
- John Pateman, Thunder Bay Public Library
- David Paul Achneepineskum, Matawa First Nations Management
- Ken Adams, Confederation College
- Ian MacRae, Lakehead Public School Board
- Pino Tassone, Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board
- Jean Bartkowiak, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
- Lisa Beckwick, St. Joseph's Care Group

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