



President's Report to the Board of Governors

June
2023





Office of the President

Lakehead Thunder Bay's 2023 Convocation

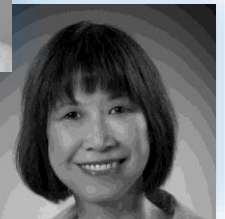
Lakehead University's annual Convocation returned to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium in 2023 to celebrate the milestone achievements of its graduates at three ceremonies on May 25-26. Almost 1,500 graduates are expected to attend Lakehead's Convocation ceremonies.

In addition to celebrating its graduates, Lakehead will honour four exceptional people: The **Hon. Marion Buller**, the CBC's **Bob McDonald**, and filmmaker **Stephen Low** will each be conferred an honorary degree for their extraordinary achievements and remarkable service.

Vonnie Cheng will be named a Fellow of the University for her unique contribution to the growth, development, welfare, and well-being of the University.

Each ceremony was followed by a reception for grads and their supporters next to Lake Tamblyn.

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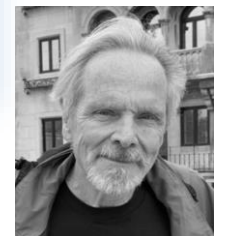


Lakehead Orillia's 2023 Convocation

Lakehead will celebrate the exceptional achievements of over 500 graduates in Orillia on June 3.

The University will also bestow honours on three influential and highly-respected members of the Orillia community: Juno-award winning music producer and performer **Lance Anderson** will receive an honorary doctorate in music; founding Orillia Campus Principal **Dr. Kim Fedderson** will be named a Fellow of the University; and community advocate and retired teacher **Fred Larsen** will receive the 2023 Civitas Award.

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Indigenous artwork inspires Lakehead's Nursing and Psychology students

To the delight of students, faculty, and staff, Lakehead's Visual Arts Department, School of Nursing, Department of Psychology, and Physical Plant collaborated to add paintings by Indigenous artists to the Olga Merz School of Nursing Building.

May-May-Quish #2 by Paul McKay is one of the works of the 10 paintings on display by artists including Carrienne Agawa, Ringo Fiddler, Paul McKay, and Lloyd Kakekapetum.

The display highlights the commitment of the School of Nursing and the Department of Psychology to support and acknowledge Indigenous contributions in diverse and creative ways.

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International Alumni Speed Networking Event

On April 20, External Relations and International collaboratively hosted the first International Alumni Speed Networking event at the Orillia campus.

The event welcomed international alumni and graduating students from the Orillia campus for an opportunity to establish social and professional networks to support them in preparing for life after university. It featured social time with refreshments, guest presentations from local immigrants, Economic Development offices, the Alumni Association, Career Services, and Lakehead University International. Following presentations, students had the opportunity to participate in speed networking wherein they had brief conversations with alumni and community service providers using questions and prompts provided at each station.





Indigenous Initiatives on the Orillia Campus

On May 3, Lakehead's Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator partnered with our Indigenous Curriculum Specialist to offer an Indigenous Initiatives and Teaching Commons open house for faculty and staff — an opportunity to learn more about the resources that are available to them in Orillia through the Office of Indigenous and the Teaching Commons.

On May 5, the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator offered a sacred fire during *Wiigwasitig Gitigaan "Birch Tree Garden" Afternoons* to the Lakehead community on Red Dress Day to honor missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit peoples.

Lakehead Orillia Hosts Applied Self-Regulation Knowledge Conference

The first-ever Applied Self-Regulation Knowledge (ASK) Conference was held on campus May 11-12, and featured dozens of student, academic, and mental health professional speakers.

Hosted by Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo from the Faculty of Education, the conference brought together the University community and community-based mental health organizations to share information about support that can result in improved mental health outcomes for university students.

Drawing on presentations from students, parent advocates, and scholars, the conference provided a space for the exchange of knowledge about mental health and well-being and evidence-based support with the goal of improving outcomes through knowledge mobilization and dissemination.

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2023 Tamblyn Legacy Tea

Dr. Moira McPherson was pleased to host Lakehead University's annual Tamblyn Legacy Tea, a special occasion to honour donors who have chosen to include Lakehead University in their wills in support of our students now and into the future.

Gowtham Jaishankar and Michelle Pocion, both Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree students soon to graduate, spoke at the gathering, sharing their Lakehead experiences with guests.



President McPherson appointed to Campus Alberta Quality Council

Dr. Moira McPherson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Lakehead University, has recently been appointed to Alberta's 11-member [Campus Alberta Quality Council \(CAQC\)](#).

The CAQC is an arms-length quality assurance agency that reviews and recommends Alberta degree programs to the Minister of Advanced Education for approval, and monitors degree programs to ensure they continue to meet its standards. CAQC members must meet specific competency requirements before being appointed by Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education.



Gathering for Faculty and Staff: An Afternoon of Wellness

On April 25, Lakehead's Social Committee hosted its *Gathering for Faculty and Staff: An Afternoon of Wellness*. With the end of another academic year, completion of exams, and graduation ceremonies ahead, the committee wanted to provide an opportunity to rest and relax with our peers and colleagues in a spirited way. The afternoon consisted of food, entertainment, trivia, games, prizes, and many cherished memories that will remain with us for years to come.

A special note of thanks goes out to our trusted partner, Aramark, and Nick Buragina, Aramark Food Services General Manager, for providing the menu and space for our gathering, as well as our highly skilled performers who volunteered their time and talents. These performers included Amani Sloley, an accomplished viola player and a Lakehead University music student. He is the recipient of a prestigious scholarship from Lakehead University's Institute of Italian Studies and will be taking a life-changing trip to Italy this summer to study with world-class musicians at the renowned Cremona International Music Academy. Kathleen Michalchuck, a talented Ukrainian dancer and Lakehead University employee within the Institutional Planning and Analysis department, as well as Cathy Paroschy Harris, Artistic Director of the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group, and alumni of our graduate business program.

Another highlight for both participants and spectators was the Lakehead University trivia game executed in a *Jeopardy!* format. Teams selected from six categories which included: LU Landmarks, LU History, Staff of LU, LU Events/Wellness, Partnerships and Programs, and Who Do I Call?. The game challenged and educated our institutional knowledge in a fun collaborative effort that is bound to leave lasting impressions on all who were present.

Thank you to our social committee for creating an opportunity to reconnect and further demonstrate Lakehead University's commitments to wellness while reinforcing our institutional values of respect, commitment, community, and innovation. The entire committee of volunteers are Lakehead University employees who genuinely believe in the importance of coming together as a community. Their initiative to act on the wants and needs of our employees as we continue to navigate social challenges faced by the pandemic has resulted in greater morale and camaraderie among fellow staff and faculty members.

We look forward to ongoing community building initiatives brought forth by our Social Committee!





Academic Excellence

Faculty of Education Recognized for Environmental Education Excellence

EECOM (The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication) awarded Lakehead University's Faculty of Education their 2022 Outstanding Post-Secondary Institution Award.

The Faculty of Education has a large contingent of faculty members at both the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses who are deeply committed to environmental education. Collectively, they have made significant contributions to research on a wide range of environmental education topics over the years, and this passion for environmental education can be felt throughout the Faculty's undergraduate and graduate programs.

The innovative Master of Education program in Education for Change, with its specialization in Environmental and Sustainability Education has proven to be very popular. Highlights in the undergraduate program include being the first Ontario Faculty of Education to have a required course in environmental education, the only Faculty of Education in Canada to have a climate change education elective, and home to the longstanding Outdoor Experiential Education (OE3) specialization.

Another exciting innovation is the Faculty's collaboration with a number of First Nations to co-develop and deliver community-based, Aki-based learning in both the graduate and undergraduate programs; Aki is the Anishnaabeg word for Land that incorporates the Earth, water, air, and spirit.





Dr. Peter Hollings received the Goldich Medal Award

The Institute on Lake Superior Geology presented a Lakehead University professor with the Goldich Medal Award for his outstanding contributions to the geology of the Lake Superior region.

Dr. Peter Hollings is the NOHF Industrial Research Chair in Mineral Exploration and Director of Lakehead University's Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration, known as CESME. The medal was presented at a gala on Monday, April 24 at the annual meeting in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.



The ongoing contributions to understanding Lake Superior geology and to the Institute on Lake Superior Geology make Dr. Hollings a worthy recipient of the Goldich Medal.

He has extensively conducted research on the geology of the Lake Superior region and the broader Superior Province. Dr. Hollings has focused on both the Midcontinent Rift System (MRS) and Archean greenstone belts and their mineral resources.

He has a significant number of publications and presentations relevant to the discovery and utilization of natural resources in the Lake Superior region. Some of his numerous economic geology publications and presentations on topics outside of the Lake Superior region are also applicable to regional geology.

As the Director of CESME, Dr. Hollings provides leadership in promoting the discovery of and environmentally sustainable exploration for natural resources.

The first award was made by the Institute to Sam Goldich in 1979 for his many contributions to the geology of the region extending over approximately 50 years.

The Institute on Lake Superior Geology is a non-profit professional society with the objectives of providing a forum for exchange of geological ideas and scientific data and promoting better understanding of the geology of the Lake Superior region.

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Two Lakehead University Engineering professors inducted as Fellows

Two professors from Lakehead University were selected by the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) to be inducted as EIC Fellows for their excellence in engineering, and services to the profession and society.

Professors Abdelhamid Tayebi and **Mohammad Uddin** were inducted as Fellows at the 2023 EIC Awards Gala in Ottawa on Saturday, April 22.

Dr. Tayebi is a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and is the founder and director of Lakehead University's Robotics and Automatic Control Laboratory. His current research interests are in the areas of control systems, cooperative control, iterative learning control, and unmanned aerial vehicles.

Dr. Uddin is also a member of the Department of Electrical Engineering and serves as Coordinator of the Electrical Engineering program with the Lakehead-Georgian Partnership. He is the Director of the Renewable Energy, Power Systems and Drive Research Lab located in Barrie, Ont.

Dr. Janusz Koziński, Lakehead's Dean of Engineering, said Dr. Tayebi and Dr. Uddin are both world-class researchers and teachers – who represent the very best of Lakehead University.

Founded in 1887, the EIC is the oldest engineering association in the country and is a federation of 12 engineering societies, representing more than 160,000 engineers across Canada.

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Lakehead University researcher is exploring the potential of quantum computers



A Lakehead Thunder Bay Electrical Engineering professor is receiving \$25,000 through NSERC to push the boundaries in the field of quantum computers.

Dr. Ehsan Atoofian, Associate Professor in Electrical Engineering, will work with professors from Finland's Aalto University and Germany's Clausthal University of Technology for one year, thanks to funding through an Alliance International Catalyst Quantum Grant provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Quantum computers are based on quantum mechanics. They offer a level of parallelism, meaning they can perform a large number of operations at the same time, that is beyond the capability of classical computers.

This enables the execution of compute-intensive tasks that are not practical on classical computers. As an example, Google ran a quantum program on a 53-qubit machine in only 200 seconds – whereas the same task may take 10,000 years on a state-of-the-art classical supercomputer.

Dr. Atoofian and his colleagues will work to create smaller, more efficient quantum arithmetic circuits and then implement them on real quantum computers. Arithmetic operations such as multiplication, division, square root, etc. are the backbone of many applications such as image processing applications.

By completing this work, the research team led by Dr. Atoofian will create new avenues for the implementation of large-scale applications on quantum computers, which have not been feasible until now.

Dr. Atoofian will use Zoom to communicate with his colleagues, Prof. Alexandru Paler from the Department of Computer Science at Aalto University, and Prof. Robert Basmadjian from the Department of Computer Engineering within the Institute for Informatics at the Clausthal University of Technology. They will have access to a quantum computer located in New York, which they will use remotely.

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Lakehead Engineering students scoop top prizes at the annual steel bridge competition

A Lakehead Engineering delegation including the Steel Bridge Team and four other Civil Engineering students earned several top prizes at the 2023 ASCE Western Great Lakes Student Symposium hosted by the University of Minnesota Duluth from April 13-15.

The Lakehead University Steel Bridge Team – comprised of **captain Josh Fiegehen**, **co-captain Cameron Nash**, **Will Neufeld**, **Matthew Boustani**, **Stephen Gonzales**, and **Kriss Patel** – won three awards at the event that featured students from 13 universities. The team achieved second place in aesthetics, third place in structural efficiency, and third place in stiffness.

Students were challenged to design and fabricate a 23-foot steel bridge, and then assemble it as quickly as possible at the competition while navigating a seven-foot-wide river. The bridge was then load tested to confirm its strength and stiffness.

In addition, Civil Engineering students Zachary Morgan and Harshit Garg won second place in the Concrete Frisbee Golf competition, where they built five frisbees made out of only concrete without additives or reinforcement.

Nadine Elmehriki and Matt Scott, also Civil Engineering students, participated in the Concrete Cornhole competition, where they designed and built a cornhole board with the help of two other students, Kailyn Clouthier and Alexander Randall.

The Lakehead delegation included faculty advisor **Dr. Yanglin Gong** and support from technologist **Cory Hubbard**, who also served as the advisor for the concrete competitions.



From Left: Dr. Yanglin Gong, Kriss Patel, Will Neufeld, Matthew Boustani, Josh Fiegehen, Cameron Nash, Stephen Gonzales, and Technologist Cory Hubbard.

Local and Global Partnerships

Lakehead University at Annual Conference of the Brazilian Association for International Education

Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Jill Sherman, International Research Facilitator, Office of Research, traveled to Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil to represent CALAREO and Lakehead at the annual conference of the Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI), April 15-19.

CALAREO was a sponsor of the conference and had a booth for members to meet, conduct meetings, and promote the Consortium and our individual member institutions (representatives from Memorial, York, and Carleton Universities also participated).

Conference highlights include a meeting with the Canadian Ambassador to Brazil, Emmanuel Kamarianakis, the signing of the MOU between CALAREO and the Minas Gerais State Agency for Research and Development (FAPEMIG), and presenting Lakehead at an EduCanada workshop at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). Sherman participated in a panel discussion on inclusion in international education, presenting on the CALAREO IRME (GSO) Project.

After the conference, Dean and Sherman also visited Lakehead partner, Federal University of Ouro Preto (UFOP) and met with the Dean of Research, Graduate Studies, and Innovation, Prof. Renata Guerra de Sá Cota, as well as visited the School of Mines.



Photo caption: L-R: Ambassador Emmanuel Kamarianakis, Paulo Sérgio Lacerda Berão, President of FAPEMIG, and Dr. Andrew Dean, CALAREO Chair, preparing to sign the MOU.



Supporting the Decolonization of Higher Education

A group of Indigenous curriculum specialists from Lakehead University, the University of Ottawa, and Western University, have created the Indigenous Curriculum Specialist Network (ICSN) to share challenges, successes, strategies, techniques, tools and resources with others in their roles at post-secondary institutions across Canada.

Their roles involve supporting faculty and staff in engaging respectfully with Indigenous Peoples, Knowledges, Histories, and Ways of Knowing, Doing, and Being, as well as working with all levels of the University in decolonizing the academy and the road to truth and reconciliation.

ICSN's participants have been meeting for about a year-and-a-half, including a general meeting for all members to discuss their issues, obstacles and successes and to share their resources and materials and a Tea Time sharing circle for only Indigenous participants.

The Indigenous Curriculum Specialist Network is planning to hold a three-day gathering to meet in person now that COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have lifted.

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



Lakehead's Jerri-Lynn Orr, Indigenous Curriculum Specialist with the Teaching Commons, is a founding member of the national Indigenous Curriculum Specialist Network.



Lakehead students and Indigenous community members excavate 4,000-year-old archaeological sites

Professors and students from Lakehead's Anthropology department worked with Indigenous and Métis community members to excavate archaeological sites located beside the McIntyre River on our Thunder Bay campus.

As our campus is located on the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, it approved the project. These sites recorded the daily lives of people from nearly 4,000 years ago, when the shoreline of Lake Superior was much higher than today.

This unique training opportunity is a partnership between the Department of Anthropology, the Nijjii Indigenous Mentorship Program, Woodland Heritage Northwest, the Ontario Archaeological Society, and Parks Canada.

It also provided training in basic archaeological field methods such as mapping, site surveying and excavation, and material culture identification.

A new Indigenous Archaeological Technician training program developed by Woodland Heritage Northwest and the Ontario Archaeological Society for the Waasigan Transmission Line project ran from May 15-19.

Members of our University and external communities were invited to see the work in progress until May 19.

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





Indigenous Education and Math Conference

On April 28-29, **Dr. Ruth Beatty** and research partners hosted a two-day conference entitled Wiidookaadying Gikinoomaagewin: Gindaaswin Kendaasiwin: Relationships and Reciprocity Indigenous Education and Mathematics at the Lakehead University Orillia Campus.

The conference was funded in part by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection Grant and a CanCode Grant.

Over 160 participants from across Canada gathered to work with and learn from Anishinaabe and Métis Knowledge Keepers, artists, and educators. Participants had an opportunity to discuss the work of the First Nations and Métis Math Voices Project, a comprehensive long-term multi-site study that has taken place in elementary and secondary classrooms throughout Canada. It also offered a forum for developing relationships and sharing experiences and ideas about the connections between the mathematics inherent in Indigenous cultural practices, such as creating beadwork or birchbark baskets (wiigwas makak), and the mathematical content knowledge found in Canadian mathematics curricula.

Participants took part in workshops to explore different cultural practices and how students learn through engaging in these practices, in addition to considering how Indigenous pedagogical approaches align with current mathematics instruction and provide insight for creating more inclusive classrooms. They also learned from community research partners as they shared their experiences of the importance of including First Nations and Métis cultures in mathematics instruction.





C2U Expo 2023

[C2UExpo 2023](#), hosted by Lakehead University, was held on June 5-8, 2023.

The Office of Research Services and the C2UExpo 2023 Steering Committee are excited to welcome 350 delegates from as far away as New Zealand, South Africa, Brazil, and Italy — 75% of the conference delegates are coming from outside of Thunder Bay.

Embracing the spirit of collaboration and innovation is at the heart of community-based research and community-campus engagement. C2UExpo 2023 will feature several renowned keynote and plenary speakers, including Prof. Maui Hudson, Director of the Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato, New Zealand; Dr. Eve Tuck, Canada Research Chair, Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto; Liz Weaver, Co-CEO Tamarack Institute; and Norbert Steinhaus, Coordinator, Living Knowledge Network, Germany.

As part of the conference, delegates will have an opportunity to experience campus-community projects as part of the Community Showcase on June 5:

- At the Roots Community Food Center facility, delegates will get a tour and learn about the local food access programs, outreach, advocacy initiatives, and food security challenges with Dr. Charles Levkoe, Canada Research Chair in Equitable and Sustainable Food Systems (Tier 2).
- At the Algonquin Public School, led by Dr. Edward Rawana (Director, Centre of Education and Research on Positive Youth Development) and community partners, delegates will learn about the school improvement plan and the Indigenous curriculum model that has been created to recognize and celebrate student strengths using Dr. Rawana's Strength Assessment Inventory (SAI) tool.
- Led by Dr. Ravi Gokani, Department of Sociology, the community showcase will also explore the issue of migration and homelessness in the City of Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario generally with visits to the Shelter House and Salvation Army.
- Finally, a Sustainability Walk around the Lakehead Campus will provide an insight on the sustainability services and attractions on campus and how it is defined by multiple worldviews.





North2North Mobility Program

Nine Lakehead faculty members will be traveling to Norway this year through the North2North mobility program. [North2North](#) is a program of the University of the Arctic Consortium. The mobility grants (valued at approx. CAD 2,000-2,600), were offered for short-term stays (3 days to 2 weeks) at six partner institutions in Norway. The grants are for teaching, research, or networking on an Arctic and Northern related issue, for projects that will result in closer collaboration and knowledge exchange between members. Nine of the eleven applicants were successful.

Lakehead partners with other universities to create a Northern and rural innovation cluster

Lakehead University is partnering with Laurentian, Nipissing and Trent universities to create a Northern and rural innovation cluster focused on critical minerals, cleantech, and electric vehicles.

Laurentian is leading the initiative, which the Government of Ontario prompted in 2022 by releasing the Critical Minerals Strategy to identify essential components required to transform the province into a leading producer of critical minerals.

One of the six pillars in the strategy focuses on the network necessary to foster collaboration between industry and academia, a network that would support innovation from early-stage discovery to validation and prototyping to scale up and commercialization.

In late April, Intellectual Property Ontario announced that it would provide \$2 million in funding for seven projects proposed by 10 postsecondary institutions across the province.

“Lakehead University is excited to see increased intellectual property literacy within the institutions and ecosystems, improved connectivity between stakeholders, and enhanced economic development through collaboration,” said **Ellen MacKay**, Lakehead University’s Director of Innovation Development.

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Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ingenuity launches third cohort of Ingenuity Accelerator program, Ascend

On May 8, Lakehead launched the third cohort of the Ingenuity Accelerator program, Ascend. The program is a great opportunity for entrepreneurial-minded Lakehead University students looking to transition an idea into a business opportunity or accelerate the growth and development of their early-stage start-up.

Ingenuity Ascend provides funding to the business ideas upon successful completion of set milestones. The 10-week bootcamp style program will also provide access to mentors and knowledge-based activities.



Ascend 2023 Cohort Participants

Liaison — Louis Johnson

There are a huge number of talented artists and innovative entrepreneurs throughout Thunder Bay that want to turn their craft into a business. However, turning your creativity and innovation into a business can be a difficult and time-consuming process, which is why I created Liaison, The official “small business middle man”. With the skepticism that consumers face when buying products online, alongside the high cost to maintain a storefront and the hassle of trying to gain exposure for your small business, we at Liaison have created a solution that mitigates all these problems with one simple solution. Liaison is a completely automated locker system that allows artists and entrepreneurs to seamlessly market and sell their crafts and products in high foot traffic venues. When an artist chooses to invest in our service, they are also choosing to invest in themselves."

Silver Vantage Software — Christopher Silver

Silver Vantage Software is a software company providing solutions to modern problems using computer vision and machine learning. Currently, our main focus is the development and deployment of a thermal fall detection system, in which a thermal sensor monitors a room and sends an alert when a fall is detected.



Pixel Point — Allan Alias

Pixel Point is a comprehensive social media management and real estate media solution provider. We specialize in management and digital marketing, offering a range of services from content creation to paid ads management. In addition, we cater to the real estate sector with professional photography, videography, virtual staging, and floor plan services. Our approach is client-centric and data-driven, ensuring tailored strategies that resonate with your brand and audience. With our focus on efficiency, quality, and simple pricing, we are committed to helping businesses enhance their online presence and achieve their marketing goals.

Silver Sands Nail Bar — Asha Nurse

Silver Sands Nail Bar is a home-based and mobile nail salon based in Thunder Bay. We offer gel polish, gel extensions, and overlays, specializing in the newest trends in the nail industry. Our target audience includes students on campus and in the surrounding areas. As a mobile salon, we take the hassle out of finding a nail technician by bringing our services directly to you. Our mission is to understand and meet the needs of our clients, especially those of the younger generation.