



President's Report to the Board of Governors

March
2024



Office of the President

WUSC

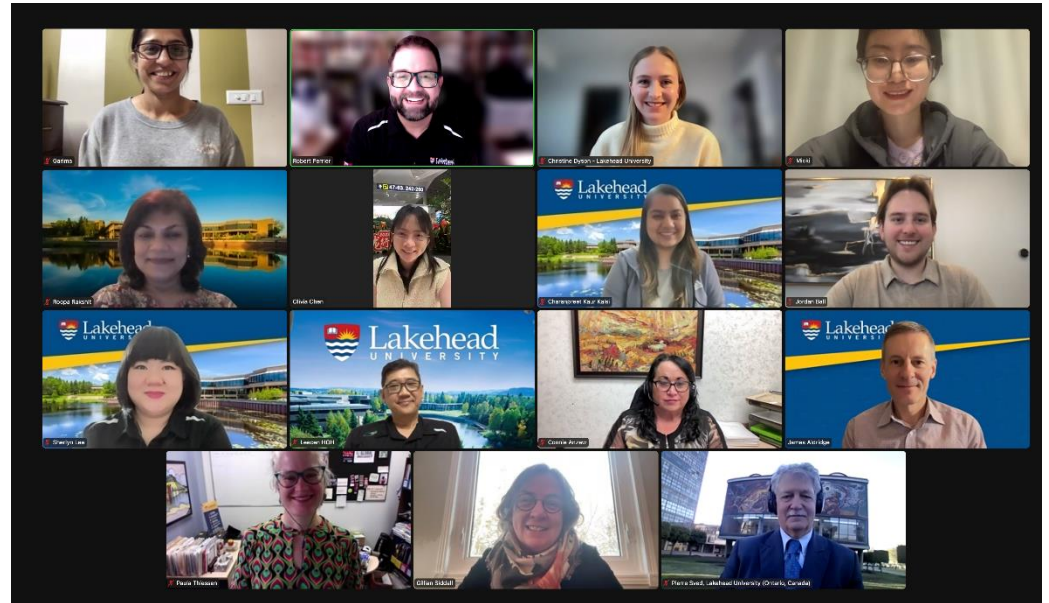
Since 1999, Lakehead University students have actively welcomed refugee students to live and study at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay through a one-of-a-kind refugee resettlement program called WUSC; (World University Service of Canada). To date, our dedicated volunteers have helped change the lives of over 25 refugee students. Each year, newly arrived refugee students gain freedom and safety, access to education, 12 months of financial support, and a student-led network to help them adjust to campus life and get on their feet.



From left to right: Reem Alfarwan, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice Chancellor, Marteena Aalhano, Feras Battah, Fatima Alatsha and Farhan Yousaf, LUSU Executive Director

Lakehead University International Enrolment team

President Siddall initiated a touchpoint meeting with Lakehead International's Enrollment team stationed in their home countries. The President provided feedback and reflections on the current state of affairs regarding changes with student visas in Canada.



From left to right starting at the top: Garima Narang (India), Robert Perrier, Director, International Enrolment, Christine Dyson, International Recruitment Officer, Micki Li (China) Second Row: Roopa Rakshit, Manager, Agency Relations & Pathways, Olivia Chen (China), Charanpreet Kalsi (India), Jordan Ball, International New and Social Media Officer Third Row: Sherlyn Lee (Malaysia), Leecen Hoh (Malaysia), Connie Anzew, Administrative Assistant, International Enrolment, James Aldridge, Vice-Provost, International Bottom Row: Paula Thiessen, Manager, International Marketing & Communications, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice-Chancellor, Pierre Sved (Mexico)

2024 PDAC Breakfast

On March 4, Lakehead University hosted its 13th Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Alumni & Friends Breakfast at the InterContinental Toronto Centre.

Once again, Lakehead's **Dr. Pete Hollings** (Lakehead Geology professor and NOHFC IRC Chair in Mineral Exploration) served as emcee. Keynote speakers included Ryan Weston, Vice-President Exploration at *Wyloo*, and Geoff North, Vice-President of Intellectual Property at *Intellectual Property Ontario*.

This year's conference welcomed almost 27,000 participants to explore business, investment and networking opportunities in the mineral exploration and mining industry. With more than 1,100 exhibitors — including governments, companies, and international experts — PDAC 2024 was one of the largest events in the association's history.



Pictured from left are Dr. Noah Phillips, Assistant Professor of Geology, Dr. Peter Hollings, Professor of Geology, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice Chancellor, Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Michael den Haan, Vice-President External Relations

Alumni Initiatives

The Lakehead University Student Alumni Association (LUSAA) hosted their annual Heritage Place Student Send-off on Feb 27.

It featured the ever-popular baked potato bar where students could enjoy a variety of toppings for their spuds. There were also giveaways and a prize draw for two “classroom bears”. The winners were very excited to receive the cute bears to take to their first classrooms.



International Student Winners

At the Fall 2023 International Student Welcome Day event in the Hangar, a group of new international students were lucky winners of the "Coffee with the President" prize draw.

On January 26, Dr. Siddall met with 4 international students to hear about their experiences and impressions of Lakehead and their programs. Over coffee and butter tarts, the students shared their backgrounds, their remarkable journeys to Thunder Bay, and their impressions of the university and the community.



From left to Right: Jo Krisko, Director, International Student Services, James Aldridge, Vice-Provost (International), Alamin Hossain, Bangladesh - MSc Computer Science In Artificial Intelligence, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice Chancellor, Thi Thuy Tien Tran, Vietnam - MSc Computer Science (Course), Samira Zarei, Iran - MSc (Electrical & Computer Engineering) - Course and Jasleen Kaur - India - MA (Economics) - Course



Lakehead Women's Soccer

On Friday, January 26, 2024, the Lakehead Women's Soccer team participated in the 2024 OCAA Indoor Soccer Invitational Exhibition Tournament hosted by George Brown College. The Thunderwolves had an excellent tournament (even beating the host team) but lost in the semifinals in a penalty shootout.

Thrive Week

Our 5th annual [Thrive](#) week was a great success with over 1,200 students, staff and faculty attending events across both campuses. Thrive is an initiative that began at UBC as a conversation between colleagues about the importance of reducing the stigma associated with mental health. It has since grown into a movement celebrated at campuses across Canada, providing opportunities for important conversations about mental health to take place. The event brought our whole campus community together to build connections, learn, and have fun!

Deputation to Orillia City Council

On January 29, Dr. Linda Rodenburg and Dr. Rebecca Heffernan presented a deputation to Orillia City Council on the Orillia campus and its impact on the communities it serves, as well as its plans for the region moving forward.

[Click here to view to deputation, including questions from members of Orillia City Council.](#)

Celebrating this year's WellU Mental Health Champions

Professors, Teaching Assistants, and staff play vital roles in supporting and advancing student mental health. The WellU Champions for Mental Health recognizes and celebrates those in our Lakehead community who create supportive learning environments where student mental health is valued and supported. Champions are nominated by those whom their work matters most: Lakehead students.

Congrats to our [2024 WellU Champions!](#)



Thunder Bay Campus

- Patricia Johnson from Student Accessibility Services
- Krista McAllister from Student Success Centre
- Joel Symonds from Student Affairs
- Mx. Mohit Dudeja from the Faculty of Education
- Lori Kapush from the Faculty of ORPT
- Dr. Leigh Potvin from the Faculty of ORPT
- Dr. Keira Loukes from the Faculty of ORPT
- Dr. Hao Bai from Mechanical Engineering
- Dr. Taryn Klarner from the School of Kinesiology
- Dr. Mike Campbell from Chemistry
- Dr. Erin Pearson from the School of Kinesiology
- Bonnie McDonald from Gender and Women's Studies
- Alexandra Hudyma from Mathematical Sciences
- Isi Medina from Residence Life
- Aaliyah Stewart from Residence Life

Orillia Campus

- Tess Casole Buchanan from the School of Social Work
- Professor Charles Manners from the Criminology Program
- Lori Anne Beneteau from Dana Hospitality
- Professor Hilton Bertalan from the Criminology Program
- Elizabeth Adams from Residence Life
- Dr. Michelle McKee from Student Health and Wellness
- Dr. Florin Pendea from the Departments of Sustainability Sciences and Geography & the Environment
- Alisia Johnston from Student Accessibility Services
- Ashley McLetchie from Residence Life

[**Click here to see what students said about the champions and what the champions had to say about their role in well-being on campus.**](#)



Health and Wellness for Lakehead Orillia Students

Students on the Orillia campus are now able to access a number of resources for health and wellness. They can access primary health care through a nurse practitioner on site (in partnership with Soldiers Memorial Hospital and the Couchiching Ontario Health Team Care Clinic). Students can also access the Central Clinic in Orillia that is open to the community, as well as counselling services provided through Catholic Family Services (CFS). CFS provides counselling services for students both in-person on campus and virtually. Students can also access the CFS location in Orillia outside of the services arranged through Lakehead. However, if students go through Lakehead they are prioritized. There are also clinics for flu shots, COVID shots, and other health screening services available.

Our new wellness programming is an important part of Lakehead's Health Promotion Strategy that positively encourages the uptake of healthy behaviours among our student population, including health education and strengthening life skills. Frazer Philips, Lakehead Orillia's new Indigenous Cultural Wellness Facilitator, is assisting in incorporating Indigenous wellness into this programming.

Office of Indigenous Initiatives Updates

Indigenous Initiatives (Orillia) provided a professional development opportunity to the Student Affairs Team by supporting and advising their new Indigenous Learning Book Club. The book club members will be reading two books: *Indigenous Writes* by Chelsea Vowel and *True Reconciliation* by Jody Wilson-Raybould. This is part two of a professional development opportunity on Building Relationships with the Land & Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Initiatives hosted a Winter Feast on January 24, 2024, as part of Thrive Week. The day included a beading workshop, lunch, and a sweetgrass basket making workshop. Winter Feast allowed students to learn about Indigenous student services, meet other Indigenous students and the Indigenous Lakehead community, and connect with Career & Co-op Services if they had any questions about Lakehead's OpenText Indigenous Internship opportunities.



Academic Excellence

19th Annual Research and Innovation Week

Lakehead University's 19th Annual Research & Innovation Week was a huge success. Information about each of our campuses' respective R&I Week's activities [can be found here](#).

Lakehead University recognized exceptional students, faculty researchers, and partners during the annual Research and Innovation Awards of Excellence on February 29 in Thunder Bay. The event, hosted by Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President of Research and Innovation, celebrated Lakehead's significant contributions to research excellence, entrepreneurship, innovation, and community impact.

Below is a list of award recipients:

Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Awards

- First Place and People's Choice Award: Madeline Fabiano, MSc Kinesiology, Supervisor: E. Pearson, School of Kinesiology
- Second Place: KarLee Lefebvre, MSc Kinesiology, Supervisor: N. Ravanelli, School of Kinesiology

Gradflix Awards

- First Place and People's Choice Award: Tristen Brown, PhD Civil Engineering, Supervisor: A. Elshaer

Graduate Studies Research Excellence Awards

- NSERC Category: Sana Sharif, PhD Electrical & Computer Engineering with Supervisor Waleed Ejaz
- SSHRC Category: Casey Oliver, PhD Clinical Psychology with Supervisor Dwight Mazmanian



Pictured from left are Dr. Jian Deng, Dr. Pauline Sameshima, Dr. Florin Pendea, Dr. Andrew J. Dean, Dr. Charles Levkoe, and Mannila Sandhu. Dr. Deng and Dr. Levkoe received this year's Research Excellence Award, and Sandhu was the recipient of the Research Support Award



Graduate Student Conference Poster Winners

- Engineering Category: Eduardo Reis, PhD Software Engineering, Supervisor: T. Akilan
- NSERC Category: Nicholas Bel, PhD Biotechnology, Supervisor: N. Khaper
- SSHRC Category: Crystal Hardy, PhD Health Sciences, Supervisors: R. Schiff and C. Mushquash
- CIHR Category: Chiao-En Joanne Kao, PhD Clinical Psychology, Supervisor: D. Scharf

Innovation Award: Dr. Deborah Scharf and Dr. Amanda Maranzan

Post-Doctoral Fellow Excellence Award: Dr. Yurii Shepelytskyi, Supervisor: Dr. Mitchell Albert

Building Research Capacity Award: Dr. Pedram Fatehi and Dr. Stephen Kinrade

Indigenous Partnership Research Award: Dr. Jian Deng, Department of Civil Engineering and Marcus Hardy, Chief, Red Rock Indian Band

Community Engaged Research Award: Dr. Gerardo Reyes, Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo, and partner Kathrine Killam (Camphill Communities Ontario)

Senate Research Committee Awards:

- Research Support Award: Miss Mannila Sandhu - EPID@WorkResearch Institute
- Research Excellence Awards: Dr. Jian Deng (NSERC Category) and Dr. Charles Levkoe (SSHRC Category)
- Distinguished Researcher Awards: Dr. Andrew J. Dean and Dr. Pauline Sameshima



(From left to right) Graduate Student Conference winners: KarLee Lefebvre, Three-Minute Thesis Second Place; Madeline Fabiano, Three-Minute Thesis First Place and People's Choice; GRADflix Award winner Tristen Brown; Dr. Chander Shahi, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies; Eduardo Reis, winner, Engineering Category (Poster Competition); Nicholas Bel, winner, NSERC Category (Poster Competition); Chiao-En Joanne Kao, winner, CIHR Category; Casey Oliver, winner Social Sciences and Humanities Category, Graduate Studies Research Excellence Awards; Crystal Hardy, winner SSHRC Category (Poster Competition)



(From left to right) Keynote Speaker Dr. Dan Riskin, Elder Audrey Deroy, Dr. Andrew P. Dean, BOG Chair Maria Vasanelli, Ms. Patricia Maxwell - Executive Assistant to our Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Kevin Holland, Mayor Ken Boshcoff



Research and Innovation Week in Orillia

Lakehead hosted another successful R & I Week on the Orillia campus, March 5-7. Opening ceremonies showcased community support, with Simcoe North MP Adam Chambers and Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke speaking enthusiastically about partnership and community. In addition, Orillia Mayor Don McIsaac proclaimed “Research and Innovation Week” in Orillia.

VP of Research and Innovation, Dr. Andy Dean, and Research and Strategic Initiatives Facilitator, Dr. Rebecca Heffernan, also unveiled a plaque recognizing Lakehead University’s Innovation and Economic Prosperity Designation from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and its Commission on Economic and Community Engagement through the University Economic Development Association.

All events were well attended, including the Industry Panel: Optimizing Your Business Using Artificial Intelligence, held on Wednesday, March 6. Moderated by Interim Principal Dr. Linda Rodenburg, the panel discussed the uses, threats and opportunities that exist and how AI can revolutionize and leverage business for growth and efficiency.

[Click here for the media release...](#)

This year saw an R & I event take place at Heritage Place as well. On Thursday, March 7, Faculty of Education students from Social Studies courses in the professional program shared assignments resulting from research investigating teaching strategies for deep learning in today’s complex social world. Topics range from critical cartography, photo essays of living history, climate action through social studies, land relations, and teaching in an era of AI.

[Click here for the media release...](#)



Pictured above, left to right, are Mayor Don McIsaac, Warden Basil Clarke, Interim Principal Linda Rodenburg, President and Vice-Chancellor Gillian Siddall, VP Research and Innovation Andy Dean, MP Adam Chambers, and Chancellor Rita Shelton-Deverell



Engineering professor earns international IET fellowship

A Lakehead University professor has been named a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Dr. Abdelhamid Tayebi, from the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been selected for this international recognition from his peers for his innovative research and outstanding commitment to the engineering profession.

The IET Fellowship is the professional institution's highest category of membership and is reserved only for those who have demonstrated recent significant achievements sustained at the highest levels in engineering, technology, or related disciplines.



Dr. Tayebi received his Master of Science in Robotics from Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, and his PhD in Robotics and Automatic Control from Université de Picardie Jules Verne. He joined Lakehead University in 1999 where he is a professor and the founder of the Robotics and Automatic Control Laboratory.

Headquartered in the United Kingdom, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is a multidisciplinary professional engineering institution. The IET was formed in 2006 from two separate institutions: the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), dating back to 1871, and the Institution of Incorporated Engineers (IIE) dating back to 1884. It is now one of the world's largest engineering institutions with 154,000 members in 148 countries.

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



Lakehead graduate earns McCall MacBain Regional Award

Lakehead University graduate **Chris Armiento** (HBSc'22) has earned a \$5,000 [McCall MacBain Regional Award](#). This scholarship recognizes engaged student leaders who have demonstrated exceptional character, community engagement, leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, academic strength, and intellectual curiosity. It provides funding for a full-time master's or professional program at any public university in Canada.

Chris is an intern at Confederation College, assisting the school in implementing sustainable development goals. They recently earned a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Lakehead, where they served on the board of the student union and mentored international students. Chris has also organized climate action projects and events, developed a workshop to teach high school students about climate activism, and contributed to research on adolescent exposure to cannabis marketing. They are applying to medical school and medical research master's programs.

Chris placed among the top 95 of more than 700 Canadian applicants this year.

The McCall MacBain Scholarships are the result of a landmark \$200 million gift in 2019, then the largest single donation in Canadian history, by John and Marcy McCall MacBain.

Applications will open in June 2024 for September 2025 admission. In addition to 30 fully funded scholarships, up to 100 awards of \$5,000 to \$20,000 will be offered. More information about the McCall MacBain Scholarships can be found at mccallmacbainscholars.org.

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





Local and Global Partnerships

34th Annual Powwow at Lakehead University March 8 to 10

The Indigenous Cultural Traditions Club (formerly the Lakehead University Native Student Association) is excited to host their 34th Annual Powwow at the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse, March 8-10, 2024.

ICTC is honoured to have Rolling Thunder as the Host Drum. Lakehead University students and the Thunder Bay community gathered together in celebration of Indigenous culture and dance.

Warm-ups were held on Friday, March 8 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Grand Entry was scheduled for 1 pm and 6 pm on Saturday, March 9 with a Traditional Feast being served at 5:00 pm and the powwow wrapped up for the day at 9:00 pm. Grand Entry were set for 12 pm on Sunday, March 10 with the powwow ending at 5 pm.

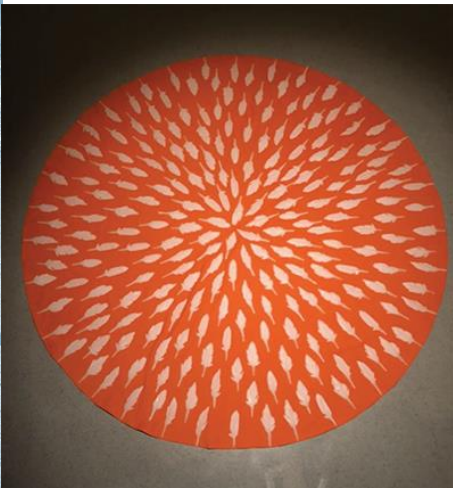


Pictured left to right, Denise Baxter, Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, Faraz Khorsandi, President LUSU, Bess Ann LeGarde, Councilor of Fort William First Nation, Jordan Thompson-Vankoughnett, President Indigenous Cultural Traditions Club, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice Chancellor and Mayor of Thunder Bay Ken Boshcoff





39th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition



Everyone from the university community is invited to attend the opening night of two student art exhibitions at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The Department of Visual Arts will be hosting the 39th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition and the Honours Student Thesis Exhibition at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Friday April 5 from 7 to 9 pm with a brief awards ceremony taking place at 7:30 pm.

Fifty-four students will be participating, with artworks represented in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, digital art and Indigenous art practices. These highly anticipated student art exhibitions will also be celebrating a 39-year partnership and collaboration between The Art Gallery and Lakehead University's Department of Visual Arts.

The Juried Exhibition will be on display from March 15 to April 28 and the Honours Exhibition will run from March 22 through May 5. The exhibit is open to the public.

This exhibit is sponsored by the Lakehead University Alumni Association. The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is located at 1080 Keewatin Street, on the campus of Confederation College. Please visit the gallery website for more information about the exhibitions.

From top left: Lux Favreau, Grapefruit Still-Life (2024), Alyssa Angus, 215 (2023)

From top right: Jillian Jurimae, The Raven (2024); Marie Gauthier, Nature vs Concrete (2023)





Research Ethics Board of Record agreements

Research Ethics Board of Record agreements have recently been established between Lakehead University & St. Joseph's Care Group, and Lakehead University & Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital. The Agreements allow for the most applicable Research Ethics Board (REB) to provide human ethics review of research and for the partner institution to accept the review. This reduces the duplication of work for researchers and will help to avoid duplicate processes including duplicate applications and duplicate REB reviews. These collaborations illustrate the growing bond between our institutions, especially pertaining to research. The processes are in line with the federal Tri-Agency Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Questions can be directed to Sue Wright in Lakehead's Office of Research Services at swright@lakeheadu.ca.

Spotlight on Academics Film Festival

The Department of History, with support from the faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities and Education, were pleased to partner in the presenting of the 3rd annual Spotlight on Academics Film Festival, an event to share knowledge through film.

Spotlight on Academics features films from around the world and was live for the first time with 22 documentaries screening in-person at Lakehead University from February 9-11. Special guests included Dr. Michael Brown from the University of South Wales, and filmmakers Áine Clark and Michel Van der Veken from Belgium. In addition to the films selected for a live audience, the festival presented a total of 45 films online via www.researchtv.ca from February 9-12.

The festival was free and open to the public. For more information and the full festival lineup, visit www.spotlightonacademics.ca.



Office of Indigenous Initiatives (Orillia Campus) Update

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia), Mercedes Jacko, attended Beausoleil First Nation's (BFN) Post-Secondary Education Fair on February 21, 2024 to share Lakehead University information and resources to BFN community members and grade 8 students.

Denise Baxter, the Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives, with Mercedes, attended a community-led event: A Gathering to Learn about United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNRIP) on February 16, 2024. The speakers included Lakehead's Chair of Truth and Reconciliation, Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Elder Jeff Monague, and Elder John Rice.

The Indigenous Cultural Wellness Facilitator hosted Teachings and Tea on Tuesday evenings throughout the month of February, in which participants had an opportunity to learn about herbs that support wellness. In addition, they hosted Round Dance Teachings on Thursday evenings throughout the month of February; participants had the opportunity to learn about drumming, singing, etiquette, and dancing aspects of the Round Dance.

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator, in partnership with Research and Innovation Week, offered an Indigenous Craft Market during the Research and Innovation Week opening ceremony on March 5th. In addition to the craft vendors, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and OpenText offered information tables where various departmental resources, services and opportunities were shared with students and the Lakehead community.





Career Services & Co-Op

In February, Career Services & Co-op hosted 18 events on the Orillia Campus including regular drop-in support in the Career Zone (ORSI Learning Commons at Simcoe Hall and Heritage Place Library), as well as workshops on specific themes connected to employment and career development. Appointments continue to be delivered to students at both campuses both in person, via teleconference, and telephone, according to the students' preference.

A Municipal Career Exploration event on February 8 brought students together with hiring managers working at the County of Simcoe, City of Orillia, and City of Barrie. While sharing their own career stories, participating employer partners gave students some insight into the variety of well-compensated and fulfilling roles available in the municipal sector.

Space for service delivery continues to be a factor at Orillia campus. The team working on redesign of space for service delivery connected to Career Services and Academic Support received expressions of interest and reviewed proposals from four vendors in February. The project continues to move forward, with selection of the vendor expected by early March.

Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL)

On February 28, CELL wrapped up the Third Age Learning Lakehead winter speaker series, Exploring Ethics in a Complex World. This series saw 120+ Third Age Learners attend, either in-person or virtually, to hear from 3 experts in the area of ethics. CELL had learners attend from across the province, including Thunder Bay and Ottawa. Planning for the Spring 2024 series is underway.

At the beginning of February, CELL welcomed a class of 10 students to the Humanities 101 program. The students are eager to learn, and there's a full schedule of Lakehead faculty who have volunteered their time to teach this semester.

For more information on CELL programming, please visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/about/orillia-campus/community-programs>



Lakehead University and St. Joseph's Care Group - Establishment of a Research Ethics Board of Record Agreement

A new research ethics agreement between Lakehead University and St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) has recently been established. The agreement reduces the duplication of work for researchers at Lakehead University and NOSM U looking to use the resources of SJCG and will help to avoid duplicate processes, including duplicate applications and duplicate Research Ethics Board (REB) reviews. Lakehead University's REB will accept the REB approval provided by SJCG. The collaboration illustrates the growing bond between our two institutions, especially pertaining to research.

Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL)

The Winter 2024 certificate session of the Ontario Master Naturalist Program launched on January 11, 2024. 31 learners were welcomed. More information can be found [here](#).

CELL's Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) program is now accepting registrations for its upcoming lecture series. This winter's TALL lecture series on Exploring Ethics in a Complex World will focus on key ethical issues impacting our daily lives, such as bioethics, corporate social responsibility, and environmental ethics. The series opens February 14th.

Alumni Initiatives – the Resiliency Project

On January 22, 2024, Lakehead's Alumni Office launched The Resiliency Project; an online platform for alumni, current students, staff, and faculty that serves as a dedicated safe space for mental health discussions, fostering connections, and actively participating in health and wellness events. The launch included a series of 5 events done in partnership with Shift Collab, a national virtual therapy practice. Over the week more than 110 participants enjoyed the wide variety of event topics. Participants were taken on a tour of the forum and encouraged to continue to engage within it. The project will continue to grow, and new content will be added frequently to encourage participants to continue to engage and talk about mental health and wellness. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/alumni/events/chapter-events/the-resiliency-project>



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ontario invests in innovative research and capacity-building projects at Lakehead

Lakehead University researchers have received over \$2.1 million from the Government of Ontario to advance innovative research in mining and mental health. **Dr. Peter Hollings** and **Dr. Noah Phillips** from the Department of Geology are receiving \$2 million from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence program to develop new models that will enrich mineral exploration in Northern Ontario. Dr. Hollings is the NOHFC Industrial Research Chair in Mineral Exploration and Director of Lakehead's Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration. Dr. Phillips is an Assistant Professor in Geology.



This research will study the geological processes leading to the formation of valuable mineral deposits in Northern Ontario. It will develop novel models for industry partners to seek new deposits that will be developed into mines. With this project the researchers are focusing on two themes – one is nickel-copper-platinum and the other is gold. The team will work on a range of sites where the researchers will develop models that can be applied to create more efficient exploration in Canada. This group of highly qualified people will include approximately 30 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.



Collaborators include Dr. Mike Hamilton, University of Toronto; Dr. Wouter Bleeker and Dr. Jennifer Smith, both from the Geological Survey of Canada; and Dr. Andreas Kronenberg from Texas A&M University. Kaitlin Richard from Science North is the youth outreach collaborator. Industrial collaborators include Goldshore Resources Inc., Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd., Romios Gold Resources Inc., Impala Canada Ltd., Generation Mining, Clean Air Metals Inc., and Enersoft Inc. **Dr. Aislin Mushquash**, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, is receiving an Early Researcher Award (ERA). This \$140,000 grant, supplemented by an additional \$50,000 from the University, will support research aimed at supporting youth mental health. The five-year ERA, designed to bolster research capacity among emerging scholars, will help Dr. Mushquash build a team of graduate and undergraduate student researchers to examine youth and emerging adult stressors, coping mechanisms and outcomes and evaluate innovative interventions to support coping. Mushquash would also like to explore a multidisciplinary team approach that will facilitate collaboration across faculties, creating opportunities for innovative solutions to mental health challenges.

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



Research Matters: Exploring the stigma faced by injured workers

Published in The Chronicle Journal on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

How does the workers' compensation board treat injured workers? What do injured workers experience when seeking medical care? What challenges do they face when returning to the workplace? These are some of the topics that will be addressed in a new study by Lakehead University researchers and the Canadian Injured Workers Alliance. They will try to understand the shame and obstacles injured workers face in various aspects of their journey.

Maranzan, an associate professor and director of clinical programs in Lakehead's department of psychology, is leading the project. With \$25,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and additional funding support from the Enhancing the Prevention of Injury and Disability at Work (EPID@Work) research institute, she will oversee a systematic review of the literature and host stakeholder engagement. An advisory team of eight people representing injured workers, health-care providers, employers and partners in the disability field has met to fine-tune the project's objectives.

The next phase is a systematic literature review by research assistant Lauren Reynolds. A master's student in clinical psychology, Reynolds will read existing papers, conduct quality appraisals and extract relevant data.

Having contributed to other projects involving mental health and stigma, Reynolds was drawn to this effort after meeting and hearing about people who've been injured on the job and the social disgrace they may have lived through.

With a framework in place, Maranzan expects the systematic review will present the advisory team with critical information, such as how structural inequalities exist in employment practices as well as workers' compensation and the health-care field.

The Canadian Injured Workers Alliance is a co-investigator in this endeavour, bringing the perspective of injured workers to the table and providing input to drive the project forward. Indeed, the advisory team is actively involved in setting the project's goals and will play a role in sharing the information with their constituents.

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





Ontario Research Fund Announcement

The Ontario government, through the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Program, provides significant funding for large-scale, partner-driven research projects every second year. These projects usually involve three parties: a company contribution, an Ontario government contribution, and a university contribution.

Lakehead University was very pleased to have been awarded from the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Program in the amount of \$2 million this past fall. This funding will be going towards **Dr. Hollings** and Dr. Phillips project, titled *Finding the Next Mine: Developing new deposit models to enhance exploration in Northern Ontario*.

This funding will establish an innovative research hub at Lakehead University that will train a diverse group of over 25 highly qualified people (5 HBS, 19 MSc, and 5 PhDs) in a wide range of traditional and novel, state-of-the-art techniques. They will also develop youth outreach programs that will benefit high school students in small Northern Ontario communities to engage them in the geosciences. Combined with undergraduate research projects, this will help to reverse the current trend of declining numbers of graduate students working on mineral deposit studies in Canada, which will further promote economic development in the primary resource sector of Northern Ontario and Canada.

Ingenuity Ascend Accelerator Program Sees Largest Number of Applications

Ingenuity received 28 applications to the Ascend Accelerator Program, the largest number of applications to date, including 5 from Orillia. The applicants had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges, and four ideas were selected to move forward, one from our Orillia campus.

The Ascend Accelerator Program begins January 29 and runs for 10 weeks. During that time, Ingenuity provides \$5000 in start-up funding, mentorship, and delivers knowledge-based workshops. During the 10-week program, the participants are taken through the steps to launch or grow their business idea. In the previous three cohorts, Ingenuity has supported 12 business ideas, nine of which are still either actively pursuing their business idea or have moved to revenue generation.