



President's Report to the Board of Governors

May
2022





Office of the President

Lakehead University launches 10-year plan to increase Indigenous language fluency

Lakehead University is embarking on a 10-year initiative that will support the revitalization of Indigenous languages in and around the University. This plan will reaffirm the University's commitment to working alongside Indigenous communities as they revitalize those languages by providing an interactive and immersive experience.

The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization has designated 2022 – 2032 as the Decade of Indigenous Languages. The revitalization of Indigenous languages is a social movement, where everyone has a role whether they are Indigenous or non-Indigenous, a language learner or a non-language learner.

At Lakehead University, there are three Indigenous languages taught: Oji-cree, Cree, Ojibwe, with four dialects of Ojibwe: Eastern, Northern, Southwestern and Western. Lakehead held a kick-off celebration with Ojibwe Language Revitalization expert Dr. Anton Treuer, Ojibwe professor at Bemidji State University and author, on April 20.

At the Making a Decade of Action for Indigenous Languages meeting in Mexico City more than 500 participants from 50 countries passed the Los Pinos Declaration, which affirmed Indigenous Peoples' rights to freedom of expression, to an education in their mother tongue and to participation in public life using their languages, as prerequisites for the survival of Indigenous languages, many of which are currently on the verge of extinction.

Sadly, Indigenous language loss is prevalent in Canada, where many communities no longer produce fluent first-language speakers.

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Thunderwolves close out historic season at Provincials with a top four finish

The 2021-2022 season was a historic one for the Lakehead Orillia Thunderwolves varsity women's indoor soccer team. For the first time in the program's history, and after a season full of adaptation and unexpected challenges brought on by the pandemic, the Thunderwolves secured a final four finish in the Ontario College Athletics Association (OCAA) Provincial Championships and finished the season ranked fourth in the province.



Lakehead Orillia celebrates varsity athletes during in-person athletic banquet

The Lakehead Orillia Thunderwolves capped off a successful 2021-2022 athletic season on Tues. April 5 during the first in-person Athletic Awards Banquet since 2019. Marking the first season back to regular training and competition, there was a lot to celebrate for the Thunderwolves three varsity teams. Winners from the evening include:

Athlete of the Year

Breann Sharma, Women's Indoor Soccer

Shane Tonkonog, Men's Indoor Soccer

Principal's Award for Leadership in Athletics and Recreation

Sarah Simpson

OCAA All-Academic

Joshua Brown, Golf (fall 2021)

Ethan Sleep, Golf (fall 2021)

Grace Heywood, Women's Indoor Soccer (winter 2020)

Ally Morris, Women's Indoor Soccer (winter 2020)



Rookie of the Year

Jack Beck, Golf

Hady Hamdan, Men's Indoor Soccer

Mikaela Pludra, Women's Indoor Soccer

MVP

Noah Collins, Golf

Lucas Tinney, Men's Indoor Soccer

Grace Heywood, Women's Indoor Soccer





Alumni events from Lakehead Orillia

The Alumni Relations Office in Orillia held virtual events throughout February and March. These included an LGBTQ2+ event on February 17, with a drag queen performance, trivia quiz, followed by a panel discussion with both current and alumni on the topic of differences in the Lakehead University experience for LGBTQ2+ individuals, past and present. The event was well attended and the panel discussion informative. On February 28, an event was held on planting an Indigenous Medicine Garden hosted by Elder Gerry Martin. Participants were provided with a package of items, including tobacco seeds from the Thunder Bay Community Garden, followed by an informative session on how to plant and care for them. More than 100 people were in attendance.

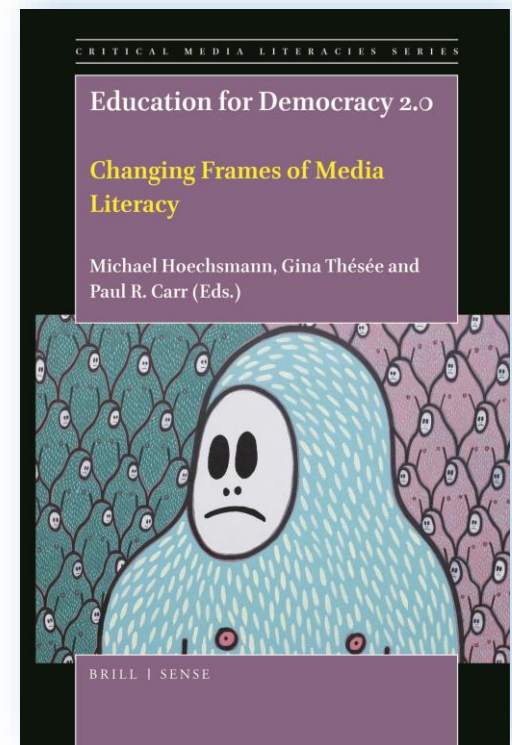
Academic Excellence

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Hoechsmann

The book *Education for Democracy 2.0. Changing Frames of Media Literacy* has received a 2022 Society of Professors of Education Outstanding Book Award. Congratulations to lead editor **Dr. Michael Hoechsmann**, Chair, Education Programs (Orillia)/Associate Professor.

The awards ceremony was held virtually at the Annual Meeting of the SPE on April 23 - during the annual AERA convention. The Society of Professors of Education is an organization which since 1902 has provided a forum for addressing the issues facing the discipline and vocation of education.

See more here: <https://brill.com/view/title/59612>





Lakehead professors receiving New Frontiers in Research Grants

Two Lakehead University professors are each receiving significant research funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In total, the amount represents more than \$470,000 of funding.

Dr. Jian Deng from Civil Engineering is receiving a \$237,970 grant under SSHRC's New Frontiers in Research Fund: special call on innovative approaches to research in the pandemic context.

Over one year, Dr. Deng and his team will explore new approaches in probabilistic slope stability analysis, which is how a civil engineer examines if the angle of a slope in a roadway, bridge or dam will result in that structure failing.

This research will contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge and technologies associated with probabilistic slope analysis and design. Enhanced understanding of the slope failure mechanism will inform protocols and measures, by proper soil stabilization measures, to avoid slope disasters.

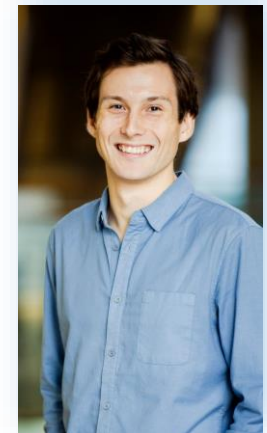
Dr. Nicholas Ravanelli from Kinesiology is also receiving a one-year grant under SSHRC's New Frontiers in Research Fund: special call on innovative approaches to research in the pandemic context – for \$237,730.

Dr. Ravanelli and his team will examine the way vulnerable people behave and their physiological responses to heat waves.

Advancements in wearable sensors, web applications, and internet-connected devices offer a unique opportunity to transform traditional data collection equipment to monitor the indoor and outdoor environmental conditions along with each person's behavioural and physiological responses in real-time during heat waves.

Dr. Ravanelli said these at-home environmental and health monitoring solutions may identify the primary factors influencing heat-related complications in vulnerable populations and provide greater telemedicine diagnostic precision for individuals who lack immediate access to health-care services.

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Lakehead University earns first place at the Student Steel Bridge Regional Competition

The team representing Lakehead Engineering has won first place overall at the Student Steel Bridge Regional Competition held in Illinois April 7 to 9, organized by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

This year's competition included eight categories: aesthetics, construction speed, lightness, stiffness, construction economy, structural efficiency, cost estimation, and overall performance. Lakehead's team placed first in seven of the eight categories and came second in the other category.

Dr. Yanglin Gong and technologist **Cory Hubbard** supervised the team, comprised of fourth-year Civil Engineering students **Damien Grayda**, **Paul Graham**, **Philip Duke**, **Felix Lasalle**, and **Matthew Scott**.

The Lakehead Engineering team won the competition for Western Great Lakes region, hosted at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. They were the only Canadian university in this regional competition that featured over 400 students from 13 American universities.

Dr. Juan Pernia was faculty advisor for the ASCE student chapter. Technologists **Morgan Ellis**, **Kailash Bhatia** and **Stefanie Stangier** also acted as machinist advisors to the team. **Josh Fiegehen**, representing the student chapter, participated in symposiums and presented a technical paper.

The annual Student Steel Bridge Competition, which began in 1987, challenges student teams to develop a 20-foot-long steel bridge to fit a given hypothetical environment.

After triumphing in the regional competition, Lakehead's team will go up against top universities from across North America in the National Finals from May 27-28 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

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From left, Philip Duke, Matthew Scott, Damien Grayda, Paul Graham, Felix Lasalle, and Cory Hubbard (technologist), Dr. Yanglin Gong (faculty advisor) won first place at the regional competition.



Faculty Members Receive SSHRC Funding for the Youth Sustainability Summit

Dr. Ellen Field, Faculty of Education, and **Dr. Linda Rodenberg**, Interdisciplinary Studies, Orillia, has received a SSHRC Connections Grant worth \$24,354 in support of the Youth Sustainability Summit: Enabling Youth-led Dialogue and Action. This is a day-long event that will be youth-organized, and will be inviting student-led environmental groups from across Simcoe county to learn about the realities of climate change and how to engage in change-making processes.

Law student receives Royal Society of Canada's inaugural Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize

Aria Kamal, from Barrie, Ont., has been named as one of the recipients of the Royal Society of Canada's inaugural Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize.

Kamal began advancing equality in her community through her involvement with Dress for Success, a charitable organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence, where she worked closely with clients by providing them with business attire and professional development training to secure meaningful employment.

Kamal said she is grateful for the unique opportunities and experiences that she has had as a student in the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

The Royal Society of Canada established this prize in honour of Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, a changemaker celebrated for her visionary intellectual contributions and commitment to building equality and equity across Canadian society and beyond.

The Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella Prize is presented annually to a graduating law student in each of the law schools in Canada who is most likely to positively influence equity and social justice in Canada or globally.

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Local and Global Partnerships

Ontario Working for Workers by Investing Over \$5 Million in Health and Safety Research at Lakehead

The Ontario government is working for workers by investing \$5.5 million in ground-breaking workplace health and safety research led by the Enhancing Prevention of Injury and Disability @ Work (EPID@Work) Research Institute at Lakehead University. The funding will contribute to the Institute's leading research in several key areas including, reducing mental health stigma in the workplace and designing injury prevention programs for vulnerable workers in Northwestern Ontario.

Research shows vulnerable workers are often at increased risk of workplace injury as they face challenges accessing conventional workplace health and safety resources and training. EPID@Work's research will aim to identify and address these barriers.

This investment is part of the government's plan to build a future where Ontario is the best place to live, work and raise a family. This includes recently passing new legislation that provides historic new protections for workers, as well as releasing the province's five-year health and safety strategy, Prevention Works.

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Lakehead University and Confederation College Sign Joint Admission Agreement

Lakehead University and Confederation College have signed a joint admission agreement that will facilitate the seamless transfer of students earning a college diploma directly to undergraduate studies at university. Covering more than 30 distinct diploma to degree programs, this agreement will reduce red tape and the time, costs, and barriers of higher education by encouraging students to continue with post-secondary education after they complete their respective diploma program.

Through this agreement, students will experience improved and collaborative recruitment, communication, transition, and academic advising.

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Congratulations to Dr. Rebecca Schiff

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board has chosen Lakehead University's **Dr. Rebecca Schiff**, Chair/Professor of the Department of Health Sciences, to serve on the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Advisory Table.

The purpose of the CHPI Advisory Table is to review current Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative programs and funding commitments, and to identify new opportunities for consideration to assist TBDSSAB in meeting its strategic priorities, which will broaden engagement and participation of its rural and urban partners and stakeholders.

Dr. Schiff will serve on the advisory table until December 2023. Her research has brought much needed attention to homelessness in rural and remote communities during COVID-19.

Updates from Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning

CELL had over 700 people attend the Truth and Reconciliation dialogues - from as far away as New Zealand! In April, CELL hosted "Spring into Learning," four foodie workshops showcasing local businesses focusing on chocolate, gouda cheese, bread-making, and Shumka dust. CELL is also collaborating with Lions Oval and Regent Park elementary schools in Orillia on two PRO-grant funded workshops that will enable 200 families to participate in "Operation Grow!," learning about sustainable agriculture while planting tomatoes and lettuce this spring.

CELL has also launched registration for the next TALL series, "China and the World." The series, ran from March 30th - April 27th, it included not only bestselling author and journalist Jan Wong, but also Dr. Derek Irwin, a former Lakehead professor who is now Head of School at the University of Nottingham in Ningbo.

Finally CELL received a \$5000 microgrant from the Invasive Species Centre to expand the Special High Skills major programming and to fund an Invasive Species Eradication event for high school students onsite at Georgian Bay Islands National Park in collaboration with Parks Canada.



Lakehead sponsor of 'back to business' event

On Thurs. April 7, the Orillia Campus team attended the Orillia & District Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards at Casino Rama. It was the first in-person awards celebration since 2019. Lakehead University was Presenting Sponsor of this year's awards, as well as the Sustainability (Green) Award sponsor. Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans, Principal of the Orillia Campus, was on hand to present the award to this year's recipient, Green Storage.

Virtual Patient Journey Conference: Our Voices, Our Stories will be held June 9 and 10

Lakehead University's School of Nursing and School of Social Work, in collaboration with Wounds Canada, will be hosting the first virtual Patient Journey Conference on Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10.

Funded through a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, **Dr. Ide Costa** from the School of Nursing (principal-investigator) is also the conference's chair, with presentations by the co-investigators **Dr. Catherine Phillips** (School of Social Work), **Dr. Michelle Spadoni** (School of Nursing), Dr. Pilar Camargo Plazas (Queen's University), and the support of Mariam Botros, CEO of Wounds Canada.

Called *Our Voices, Our Stories*, the conference will bring individuals, families and caregivers affected by complex wounds together with researchers, health and social service providers, educators, community leaders, and policymakers.

Speakers will address social determinants of health perpetuating health inequalities and discuss collaborative strategies to improve the delivery of a holistic and patient-centred wound care approach.

Register now by visiting: <https://www.woundscanada2022.ca/>

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Indigenous Initiatives

Supporting Student Potential

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia) partnered with Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU) offered a Water Ceremony at the Orillia campus to mark World Water Day on March 22, 2022.

Engaging with Communities

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia) continues to co-host weekly virtual Gindaasdaa (Reading Together) Book Club sessions with Elder Trish Monague, Elder in Residence - Lakehead University and Culture and Heritage Coordinator - Beausoleil First Nation (BFN). This initiative allows space for LU students and BFN members to stay connected and build relationships while exploring the book Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. In addition, this is a way for Lakehead University to build relationships with the BFN community and a way to engage in a Year of Climate Action (YOCA). This was open to both Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses. Please note: Elder Trish Monague is on a medical leave until further notice.



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ingenuity Updates

Ingenuity is excited to announce their participation in a pilot program to trial entrepreneurial co-op at Lakehead University with the School of Kinesiology. Over summer 2022, the Student Success Centre will work with *Ingenuity* and Kinesiology to trial an e-co-op placement using the approach outlined below. From this experience, the Student Success Centre and *Ingenuity* will consider the development of a program recommendation in Fall 2022, for potential expansion to a limited number of e-co-op placements in Kinesiology and other interested Faculties Summer 2023.

Enterprise Co-op (E-Co-op) gives students the opportunity to start their own business related to the student's area of study while earning a co-op credit. A successful Entrepreneur Co-op term is one where you have built skills such as communication, problem solving, setting goals, planning and organizing, which are all crucial when it comes to being a business owner and professional. Upon completion of the Entrepreneur Co-op term you will have the foundation of planning and running a successful business and understand your market, your customer and your competitors. You will have developed a value proposition and will be comfortable pitching your product/service to any stakeholder.

Ingenuity Awards Recipients

During the R&I week Awards ceremony two recipients received the *Ingenuity* award. **Silas Young**, a 4th year business student won the student award and **Dr. Pedram Fatehi** took home the award for Faculty.

The Lakehead University *Ingenuity* Awards are presented to one faculty member and one student of Lakehead University's Community who have exhibited an entrepreneurial spirit by identifying ways in which their ideas can be developed into problem solving solutions. The award is expected to showcase creative thought and contribute to *Ingenuity's* vision of fostering an entrepreneurial culture on campus.

Ingenuity has launched its applications for their Ascend Accelerator program starting in May 2022. The Ascend program is a 12-week bootcamp style program that is designed to take the student-based business from idea to launch. This will be the second time *Ingenuity* will run this accelerator program and will provide the applicants with up to \$7500 to help support their business development costs.

Along with the funding the teams will receive mentorship, weekly workshops and one on one support with *Ingenuity* staff. The program will run in a hybrid format to help support our students who leave the area for the summer and also have full time jobs.



Planetary Stewardship theme of 2022 Research and Innovation Week

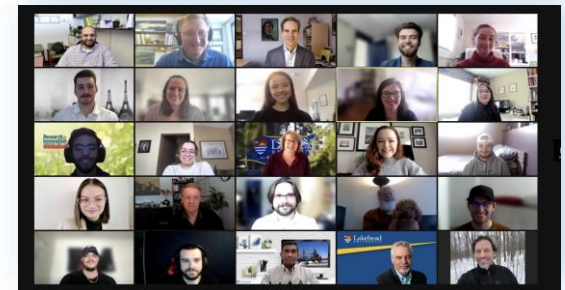
The Lakehead University community and the public were invited to participate in Lakehead University's 17th annual Research and Innovation Week, which was held virtually again this year. The week ran from Monday, March 7 to Friday, March 11 and included a variety of special speakers and events. This included several sessions comprising the Climate Change and Action Research Showcase in support of the Year of Climate Action. The Week commenced on March 7 at 11:20 with opening ceremonies. The keynote speaker was Seth Klein, team lead for the Climate Emergency Unit – a project of the David Suzuki Institute. He spoke on "Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency." As well, the Youth Event hosted during R&I Week this year was a great success! We had over 20 participants (classrooms and individuals) participate. **Dr. Ellen Field** moderated the session with our Keynote Speaker, Seth Klein, joined by three youth panelists - Blythe Wieclawek, Anjelina Pathak and Chloe Nguyen. The youth panelists demonstrated incredible climate leadership, urging climate action at all levels from the local to the global. They shared their motivations for their climate activism and their ideas on what the most important climate issues are for young people today.

For more information about Research and Innovation Week, 2022, please go to the [Research Innovation webpage](#).

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President's Luncheon for this year's R&I Week Undergraduate Student Research Conference winners

On Friday, March 11, Dr. McPherson celebrated the winners of the 2022 R&I Week Undergraduate Student Research Conference. The winners from the poster and oral competitions were selected by their peers for their engaging, innovative, and exciting research, and invited to lunch with the President and members of the Executive Team and the conference organizing committee members. Everyone gathered virtually with a lunch from UberEats, where students from both campuses shared their work. Dr. McPherson, Dr. Andrew Dean and Dr. David Barnett shared insights about their own research experiences during their undergraduate years.





Lakehead presents professors, students and partners with Year of Climate Action awards for research projects

Lakehead University has awarded seven research teams with Year of Climate Action awards worth \$5,000 each, which they will use to explore various topics related to climate change.

The research team is comprised of Dan Duckert, Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council/Lakehead University; **Dr. Lindsay Galway**, Department of Health Sciences at Lakehead Thunder Bay; Anjali Mago, Luke Smyk and Josh Taylor, all from Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council; and **Donovan Parenteau**, a Lakehead University student in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management.



Dr. Francisco Ramos-Pallares and his research team are looking into developing alternative low-carbon technologies to produce chemicals, which he said is paramount for minimizing the effects of climate change.

Dr. Ellen Field, Assistant Professor in Education at Lakehead Orillia, is working with Dr. Muhammad Asaduzzaman, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, on a research project called Benchmarking Climate Change Policies across Canadian School Boards.

Dr. Ahmed Elshaer, Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at Lakehead Thunder Bay, and his research team will develop tailored solutions to control the influence of climate change – particularly when it comes to the built environment.

Dr. Liang Cui, Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at Lakehead Thunder Bay, is leading his research team in a project called Coupled Multiphysics Modeling of Impure CO₂ Geosequestration in Deep Saline Aquifers, which involves capturing carbon dioxide in aquifers as a way of reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Dr. Robert Stewart, Associate Professor in Geography and the Environment at Lakehead Thunder Bay, and his team will use the grant to develop a paleo-climatic record of the conditions in Lake Nipigon to assess climate change impacts in Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnaabek Traditional Territory.

Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Associate Professor in Health Sciences at Lakehead Thunder Bay, and her research team will interview people who are ecological/native species gardeners in Thunder Bay, about their gardening practices, motivations, and understanding of beneficial gardening practices. Photo essays of participants' gardens will also be included.

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