



# President's Report to the Board of Governors

June  
2022







## Office of the President

### Lakehead University in top 100 of Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for third consecutive year

For the third year in a row, Lakehead University was included in the top 100 of the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings. Lakehead is the highest ranked university in the world with under 10,000 students.

The Impact Rankings measure the societal impact of universities by evaluating an institutions' success in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, Lakehead has been ranked as one of the top universities in the world contributing to poverty reduction, elimination of hunger, reduced inequalities, good health and wellbeing, and to peace, justice and strong institutions.



Lakehead is ranked 64th out of 1,406 universities from around the world, based on its performance in meeting the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Lakehead is the only primarily undergraduate university in Canada that participated in the 2022 *Impact Rankings* and one of only 16 Canadian universities to be included in the top 100.

Lakehead is ranked in all 17 SDGs, which demonstrates the University's commitments to be a leader in sustainability and to embed and embrace sustainability throughout the university community.

Ranking ahead of several top comprehensive and research-intensive Canadian universities, Lakehead scored highly across many SDGs, including ninth globally in SDG 1: No Poverty, which measures institutions on their respective efforts to help reduce poverty, including research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching. This represents Lakehead's role as one of the largest employers, post-secondary institutions and economic hubs in Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County, and the direct impact the University has on economic and social resiliency in the regions it serves.

This ranking also reflects the many initiatives Lakehead offers to support students who face barriers to accessing university education, including financial barriers, as well as the innovative research being done by faculty related to poverty in rural and remote communities in Northwestern Ontario.

Visit Lakehead University's Times Higher Education profile at [timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/lakehead-university](https://timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/lakehead-university).

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## Lakehead University welcomes elementary school children to campus through the Achievement Program

Lakehead University's ActiveU staff hosted more than 80 young people on Friday, May 13 as part of the annual Achievement Program Day on Campus.

Lakehead started the Achievement Program in 2011 to help students obtain a post-secondary education.

The Achievement Program offers children who might otherwise not have been able to attend University the opportunity to experience it. School boards choose eligible schools based on socioeconomic status and families self enrol.

Children in grades 4-12 participate in programming yearly in their school, community and at Lakehead University, and in return earn financial support for Lakehead University once they graduate high school.



Lakehead University's Achievement Program Day welcomed the next generation of Lakehead students to the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse gym.

Amanda Stefanile, Achievement Program Coordinator, said she was happy to have the students back on campus for the day.

Achievement Program Day on Campus had students exploring campus through educational activities offered by ActiveU, the School of Nursing, Let's Talk Science, Ingenuity, the Department of Chemistry, the Faculty of Engineering, the Nijiji Indigenous Mentorship Program, and Indigenous Cultural Support Services.

Lakeishia Meekis is an Achievement Program alum who encouraged the students to continue to push themselves.

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## Announcing the new Finnish Chair

The Finnish Chair Advisory Committee and the Department of Anthropology are pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Oula Seitsonen** as the 11th Lakehead University Chair in Finnish Studies. The Chair in Finnish Studies is an interdisciplinary appointment for one or two terms during the regular academic year.

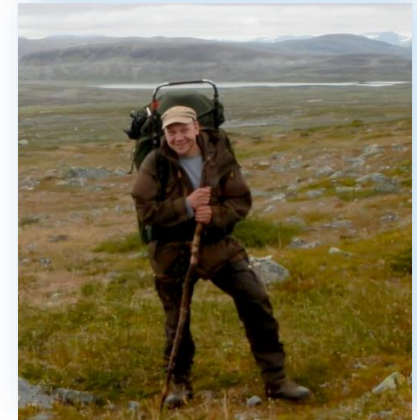
Chairs are chosen by the Advisory Committee through an open competition and are expected to have a significant research profile. Dr. Seitsonen is an archaeologist with a particular interest in contemporary archaeology of, for instance, immigrant and refugee populations.

Dr. Seitsonen will be in Thunder Bay for the fall term and will be teaching a course entitled Modern Conflict Archaeology (ANTH 3811). During his time at Lakehead University, he will also be conducting a research project entitled “Finnish-Canadian homestead research in the footsteps of archaeologist Sakari Pälsi.”

He will be carrying out a multidisciplinary contemporary archaeological study of early-20th century Finnish Canadian homesteads and exploring the material heritage of Finnish Canadians in the Thunder Bay region, and retracing the trail that Finnish archaeologist Sakari Pälsi took in 1927 across Canada. Pälsi visited Finnish societies in different parts of Canada and documented their lifeways in photographs and writing, for instance, in the Port Arthur area, and at Sointula on the Malcom Island, British Columbia.

Dr. Seitsonen has taught a wide variety of courses at Universities of Helsinki and Oulu, and been in charge of archaeological field schools and fieldwork in various areas, besides Fennoscandia, for example in Mongolia and eastern Africa. His recent teaching has included e.g. the following lecture series: “Archaeologies of 20th Century Conflicts” and “Remote Sensing methods and approaches in Archaeology”. In addition to teaching, he enjoys community engagement that he has practiced for example through public lectures and community archaeological projects.

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## **Lakehead University's 2022 Convocation and Graduation celebrations**

Lakehead University recognized six exceptional people at this year's main convocation ceremony held virtually on Thursday, June 2.

Lyn McLeod, Chief Perry Bellegarde, and Karl Subban will receive honorary degrees for their distinguished achievements within the communities and people they have dedicated their lives to improving.

Lakehead University will also honour former Lakehead Board of Governors Chair Cameron Clark by naming him Fellow of the University. Fellows are named for their unique contribution to the growth, development, welfare, and well-being of Lakehead University.

Clark served as Chair and Vice-Chair of Lakehead's Board of Governors from 2010-2014.

Robert and Qennefer Browne (posthumously) will be presented with the 2022 Civitas Award for their significant contributions to the University community.

Lakehead's virtual main Convocation Ceremony will also include the formal installation of Lakehead's 10th chancellor, Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell. Dr. Deverell was named Lakehead's Chancellor in October 2021.

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## Academic Excellence

### **\$1 million CIHR grant supports University-City Partnerships**

A \$1 million grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) aims to improve local health outcomes for residents of Thunder Bay and Ottawa through partnership between academic researchers, universities, and municipalities.

NOSM University, City of Thunder Bay, and Lakehead University are collaborating with the University of Ottawa and the City of Ottawa, to address locally identified health and safety priorities. Recognized globally, the CityStudio framework of city-campus collaboration encourages post-secondary students to be agents of change for social accountability in their communities.

In collaboration with a team out of the University of Ottawa, led by Dr. Claire Kendall, Associate Dean of Social Accountability in the Faculty of Medicine and senior investigator at the Bruyère Research Institute, the project engages two municipalities, Ottawa and Thunder Bay, and a team of researchers who will use the CIHR funding to evaluate the impact of city-campus engagement on population health.

Thunder Bay will receive \$370K over four years to implement the project, which includes the hiring of a research coordinator. The funding will also evaluate the reciprocal relationship between cities and academic institutions and their ability to improve population health outcomes.

Thunder Bay and Ottawa share many challenges and factors closely linked to the social determinants of health in the areas of poverty, education, housing, racism, childhood experiences, and access to health services.

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## Lakehead researchers excited about the NDP's proposal to expand OHIP to include therapy sessions

Two Lakehead University psychology professors said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath's proposal to expand OHIP to include therapy sessions is in-line with recommendations they made in their 2020 article published in the Canadian Journal of Public Health.

In the article released on August 7, 2020, Lakehead psychology professors Drs. Deborah Scharf and Kirsten Oinonen, who are both registered clinical psychologists, argued Ontario's COVID-19 response highlights shortcomings of its physician-only public health-care system.

**Drs. Scharf and Oinonen** said it limits access to appropriate and sustainable mental health care. They encouraged the province to integrate registered mental health providers into the public health insurance system, which is why they're excited about the NDP's proposal.

Drs. Scharf and Oinonen argued that a physician-focused OHIP approach was inadequate because physicians were already overburdened with pandemic-related medical issues and they may not have the training or desire to assume increased responsibility for mental health care.

At the same time, registered and specially trained mental health professionals such as psychologists were available to help offset the increased need for services.

The researchers described several problems with Ontario's physician-centric response to COVID-19, including that physicians do not typically provide psychotherapy; payment incentives in medicine have not typically increased public access to mental health-care; shortages of psychiatrist and other public mental health-care services mean that physicians have nowhere within the public system to refer their patients with severe or emergency mental health issues, among other concerns.

To read the article visit [this page](#).

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## Lakehead research into an innovative mass timber beam-to-column connection received Canadian patent certificate

A Lakehead University Civil Engineering professor and graduate student have published the results of a new study on the fire performance of an innovative mass timber beam-to-column connection that they designed to achieve one hour of resistance from fire without any additional protection.

**Dr. Sam Salem**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Dept. of Civil Engineering, and graduate student Cory Hubbard developed and tested the timber beam-column connection, which they described in a research article in fire safety journal, Elsevier, a leading journal in fire safety engineering.

The new connection configuration utilizes two fully concealed, mechanically fastened steel rods in glulam beam sections. The fire experiments presented in the published article were conducted in the Fire Testing and Research Laboratory at Lakehead University.

The new timber beam-to-column connection configuration has received a patent certificate from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada – Canadian Intellectual Property Office (Patent No. 3045195) and patent-pending status in the USA.

Dr. Salem mainly funded this research through a Discovery grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

[Click here to access article](#)

The Canadian Patent record for this innovative mass timber beam-to-column connection can be seen [here](#).

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## News from the Giant airing on CKPR television

News from the Giant is a series of three programs that aired on CKPR television between May 18-May 20 at 7 pm. This series explores Thunder Bay and the Lakehead region through the lens of the nightly news from the late 1950s and early 1960s. The production is part of a larger project called the Reel Memories Project. News from the Giant replicates the newsreels that were once shown in movie theatres around the world.

This is a public history project that faculty, along with current and former students in the Department of History have been working on for the past three years and News from the Giant is one of the first results of the research. In addition to the work of faculty and students, the project also features the talent of people in the local film industry.

The series covers a variety of topics that will be of interest to anyone who appreciates history and the art of filmmaking. See a report on Queen's visit in 1959, hear what Tommy Douglas had to say about the Canadian economy, and watch as the "Twist" is danced for the first time at the Lakehead. Tune in for an entertaining look at the local news from years gone by.

## Dr. Mirit Grabarski - Recipient of the 2022 HRRI Best Dissertation Award

**Dr. Mirit Grabarski**, Assistant Professor of Human Resources and Organizational Behaviour in the Faculty of Business Administration, was awarded the Best PhD Dissertation in HR Award from the Human Resources Research Institute (HRRI).

This award is granted to one recent PhD graduate from a Canadian PhD program in recognition of excellent research in the field of human resources.

Dr. Grabarski graduated from the Ivey School of Business at Western in 2021 before joining Lakehead University in August. In her dissertation she studied career empowerment, which embodies motivation for career-related behaviours. The dissertation is a multi-study project that employs mixed research methods to build the construct of career empowerment, create and validate a measure for it, and finally test its ability to predict a wide range of career-related variables such as objective and subjective career success.





## Lakehead University Paleo DNA lab was Instrumental in Identifying the Remains of a Cold Case

Lakehead University's Paleo-DNA Laboratory has successfully identified an American man missing for 30 years. Eighteen-year-old Hoover Jerome Morris was last seen in November 1991 at his residence on Thomas Street in Heflin, Alabama. He left with a friend that evening and was never seen or heard from again. Police attempted to track him down but information was scarce at the time with no leads generated. Years later, remains were found in 1997 in a remote part of Heflin by a man preparing his land to build a house. When the man found the remains, he initially thought they were those of a deer, but after police inspection they were determined to be human and the result of a homicide. Covered in leaves and vegetation for 6 years, the remains were too degraded at the time to be identified by DNA. The case went cold.

This case was revisited in 2021. It was thought recent advancements in DNA testing may now make identification possible. In early 2021, the PDNA Lab began performing DNA extraction services for a few customers looking to do forensic genealogy on degraded material in order to generate new leads for identification purposes. The PDNA Lab would extract the DNA from the remains, send it off to another lab for whole genome sequencing, where that information would be forwarded on to genetic genealogists for analysis. One of those customers is the Mobile County Sheriff's Office in Alabama. A femur was sent to the PDNA Lab in November 2021. DNA was extracted and sent off for forensic genetic genealogy but there was not enough DNA extracted to produce any information. Next, 4 molars were sent in April 2022. DNA was extracted. The PDNA Lab was asked to perform mitochondrial DNA Analysis here and to compare the DNA profile to that of a possible maternal relative. The analysis took place, a comparison was made, and the remains were successfully identified as Hoover Jerome Morris.

### [Click here to view news report](#)

Lakehead University's Paleo-DNA Laboratory continues to be involved in many high-profile identifications bringing awareness to the expertise Lakehead University has to offer.

Some of the other well-known identifications are:

- ['Babes in the Woods' in BC](#)
- [Remains of the ill-fated Franklin Expedition](#)
- [Remains of General Casimir Pulaski](#)
- [Canadian WWI missing in action soldier](#)
- [The unknown child of the Titanic disaster](#)





## Local and Global Partnerships

### Newly launched Anishinaabe Kendaasiwin Institute supporting Indigenous self-determination in Northwestern Ontario

The Anishinaabe Kendaasiwin Institute (AKI) was launched on Monday, May 30 at Lakehead University.

“Anishinaabe Kendaasiwin” – which loosely translates to “Anishnaabe knowledge systems” – is central to the mandate of AKI, which seeks to support mino-bimaadiziwin among Anishinaabe peoples, nations and territories through research that is situated in Anishinaabe Kendaasiwin and good relationships.

The Institute seeks to privilege Anishinaabe ways of knowing and being in research, to advance research excellence defined by Anishinaabe peoples and principles, to expand and support Indigenous governed and driven research and to support community building and mobilization between Indigenous peoples.

AKI has already begun its work, hosting “Telling Our Stories: Indigenous Self-Determination in Data and Research,” a regional Native American and Indigenous Studies Association conference.

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*AKI Director Dr. Lana Ray, centre, with two of the grandmothers who advised on the institute - Dorothy Taylor, second from left, and Sherry Copenace, second from right. Also included are Denise Baxter, left, from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, and Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, whose departments sponsored the Institute.*



## Updates from Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning

In mid-May, CELL hosted the first cohort of the Executive Leadership Program, in collaboration with Georgian College. Several Lakehead professors taught in this program, including **Dr. David Richards**, **Dr. Kunle Akingbola**, Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo, and **Dr. Linda Rodenburg**.

TALL's latest series - "Canadian Systems of Power" – started May 18 with an important lecture by Dr. Timothy Sayle on NATO and the war in Ukraine. Lakehead's Dr. Toby Rollo will also feature in this series.

On May 26, 200 high school students attended the Youth Sustainability Summit at the Orillia campus. Their teachers took part in professional development workshops as well. This event, in collaboration with the Sustainable Orillia Youth Council and **Dr. Ellen Field**, was supported by a SSHRC Connection grant.

Thunder Bay programming includes an Arts-based SHSM "reach-ahead" held on May 30 and 31, which over 90 students from two high schools came to campus for a lecture, arts workshops, and a campus tour. This initiative was supported by the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### *Ingenuity Updates*

On May 2nd Ingenuity launched its second cohort of their Ascend Accelerator Program. With thanks to FedNor funding, Ingenuity was able to accept five teams and provide up to \$7500 per team for business development support. The applicants will work with Ingenuity over the next 12 weeks and have weekly milestone meetings, knowledge-based workshops and meet with mentors, along with other business support partners. A graduation ceremony to celebrate their success is planned for July 22.

*Ingenuity* continues to work with three of the four teams from the first cohort of Ascend. One business, Sunkissed Universe, is revenue generating and recently was a part of Craft Revival at Goods & Co in downtown Thunder Bay. Manilla has moved to Southern Ontario and is still working on plans to launch their app. Titan remains incorporated but the team has shifted focus to their engineering careers full time and their business as a part time enterprise.