



President's Report to the Board of Governors

October
2023





Office of the President

Dr. Gillian Siddall begins term as Lakehead University President and Vice-Chancellor

On July 1, 2023, I began my first term as President and Vice-Chancellor of Lakehead University. During my first two months, I met with many members of our University community and external friends and partners, including Lakehead Chancellor Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell, faculty, staff, and students, as well as elected officials from the regions around both our campuses.

Personal highlights include sitting in on meetings of groups such as the Internal Relations Committee, touring Lakehead's campuses, participating in a campus celebration of retiring faculty and staff at Lakehead Orillia, and singing with colleagues during a summer barbecue and karaoke social at Lake Tamblyn.

An informal introductory event followed by a meet and greet was organized on August 29 in the Agora. Lakehead University's Board of Governors' Chair, Maria Vasanelli, provided words of welcome.



August 18: President Siddall met with The Honourable Graydon Smith (MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka), Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, before he attended the Conversation Officers of Ontario's Graduation Ceremonies being held at Lakehead Thunder Bay's Avila Centre; also present were Kevin Holland (MPP, Thunder Bay-Atikokan), Dr. Brigitte Leblon (Dean of Lakehead's Faculty of Natural Resources Management), and Mr. Rick Watchorn (Director of Enforcement Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).

July 13: President Siddall met with Julie Dabrusin (MPP, Toronto—Danforth) and Marcus Powlowski (MPP, Thunder Bay-Rainy River).





Updates on Various Presidential Initiatives

Collaborative DVM

Following the government announcement of support for the Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Northern and Rural Practice in April, the University of Guelph and Lakehead University have been taking steps to initiate the program.

Over the summer, a governance structure was established between Lakehead and University of Guelph that includes a number of joint working groups.

In August, Guelph submitted a Request for Substantive Change to their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program to the American Veterinary Medicine Association/Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education. Developed collaboratively with Lakehead, this is the first milestone required towards the development of the Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program.

Preliminary work on the academic program and site selection is currently underway. I visited the University of Guelph on September 21 and met with its President and toured the Ontario Veterinary College.

Orillia Expansion

Building on our commitment to expand enrollment and program offerings at the Lakehead Orillia campus by 2035, conversations about the evolving and multifaceted Orillia expansion project continue through important discussions with external partners and internal communities.

I visited Lakehead Orillia the week of September 18 where I participated in an in-person gathering with various employees to explore opportunities for the campus.

More updates will be shared with the Board as the vision of the Orillia expansion evolves.

Gichi Kendaasiwin

We are continuing to develop strong partnerships with Indigenous groups with a focus on continued joint advocacy for the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre. We recently submitted our formal federal pre-budget submission for supporting Gichi Kendaasiwin and will continue to seek opportunities to advocate for funding for this important project.



Lakehead Rocks Lake Tamblyn

Organized by Lakehead University's Social Committee, Lakehead Rocks Lake Tamblyn featured karaoke, games, a barbecue, food trucks, a visit from Wolfie, and a chance to donate to the LUSU Food Resource Centre. It was also an opportunity for me to mingle with colleagues while performing a few songs at karaoke.

The event raised ~\$300 of food and cash donations for LUSU's Food Resource Centre and allowed faculty and staff to mingle before the new school year began.

The Social Committee provides fun and meaningful opportunities for faculty and staff to connect throughout the year while further reinforcing the University's institutional values of respect, commitment, community, and innovation.



Lakehead is Canada's top primarily undergraduate university in 2023 THE Impact Rankings

Lakehead University was included in the top 200 global universities in the *Times Higher Education* 2023 Impact Rankings, the fourth year that Lakehead has been recognized as a leading university for its work advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

One of only 26 Canadian universities participating in the rankings, Lakehead is the highest ranked university in North America with fewer than 9,000 students and Canada's top ranked primarily undergraduate university. Of significant note is Lakehead University's achievement for the fourth year in a row of being included among the top 10 per cent of all the world's ranked universities in terms of its social impact.

The Impact Rankings measure the societal impact of universities by evaluating an institutions' success in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). For the fourth year in a row, Lakehead has been ranked as one of the top universities in the world contributing to clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, elimination of hunger, reduced inequalities, good health and wellbeing, sustainable life on land and below water.

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings measure the impact universities make in the areas of poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and peace and justice.

View the Lakehead University Times Higher Education profile [here](#).

Click here to read the media release...

Bora Laskin Faculty of Law mural honours residential school survivors and those who did not return

Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law unveiled a mural designed by Neechee Studio that serves to honour the children who did not return home, residential school survivors, and to illustrate the ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation.

The mural, titled *Where the Heart Gathers*, was unveiled on Thursday, Sept. 28.

The event was an opportunity to celebrate the mural and introduce some of the artists, as well as student and administration representatives from the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.



*From left to right, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Dean Julia Hughes; Francine McKenzie, Robin Sutherland, Director of Indigenous Relations; and Corinna McKay and Jada Ferris from Neechee Studio unveiled *Where the Heart Gathers* on Thursday, Sept. 28, a woodland-style mural depicting*

Neechee Studio is a free art and culture program for Indigenous youth ages 14-29 in Thunder Bay, organized by a team of young, aspiring, and professional Indigenous artists. The Faculty of Law is grateful and honoured by their support and efforts on this project.

Immediately following the mural unveiling, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law hosted the annual Every Child Matters March in Waverley Park.

The event recognized and commemorated the legacy of residential schools, providing students, faculty, staff, and other community partners an opportunity to honour and stand in solidarity with residential school survivors.

The event included speakers (Elders, students, staff, faculty), some of whom bravely shared their lived and intergenerational experiences with residential schools. Afterward, all attendees completed a silent march around the block surrounding the Faculty of Law.

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law received a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage to fund projects and events in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The funding supported all of the day's events, as well as the mural and a traditional feast.

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



Food Security Committee recognizes the important work of Stan Nemec

On June 28, the Planning Team of the Food Security Committee recognized **Stan Nemec**, Manager of Printing and Mail Services, for his tireless efforts to support student food security at Lakehead University.

For many years Stan has led the annual departmental food drive in support of the LUSU Food Bank, now known as the LUSU Food Resource Centre.

Through his participation in countless Lakehead Community Council and Lakehead Social Committee events, Stan has worked to raise awareness of student food insecurity and has championed donations for the Food Resource Centre and other student food initiatives.

Most recently, Stan helped to organize food donations for the LUSU Food Resource Centre during the recent Summerfest 2023 gathering on campus, part of the ongoing effort to support student health and wellness by members of the Lakehead University Social Committee.

The Food Security Committee wishes to thank Stan for being a Student Food Security Champion!



Stan Nemec recently received an award from the Planning Team of the Food Security Committee, presented by Cheryl D'Angelo, Director, Student Health and Wellness; Sierra Garofalo, Director of Food Security at LUSU, and Aimee Jaun, Associate Vice-Provost, Students.



Lakehead University is introducing a new online option for attending law school

As part of Lakehead's ongoing commitment to innovative education, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is launching the 1L Online Intensive program. This new cohort of students will pursue their first year of law school through a combination of online learning and four weeks of intensive, in-person, land-based learning.

The 1L Online Intensive cohort will complete their second and third year of the Juris Doctor program in Thunder Bay, alongside their classmates who completed their first year in-person.

This new initiative will open spots to an additional 25 students to the full-time Juris Doctor program at Lakehead.

The 1L Online Intensive cohort will commence their first week of law school alongside their in-person peers, engaging in a blend of orientation and immersive land-based experiences while learning the foundations of Canadian Law.

Subsequently, the 1L Online Intensive students will participate in a second week of exclusive land-based learning in the Thunder Bay area. Following these two weeks of land-based learning, the 1L Online Intensive cohort will continue the semester online from the comfort of their homes.

The course curriculum for the 1L Online Intensive program aligns with the in-person cohort, encompassing the same mandatory first-year courses.

During the winter semester, the 1L Online Intensive cohort will return to the Thunder Bay area for two weeks, to participate in IPC assignments and further land-based learning, fostering meaningful interactions with Indigenous communities and partners.

Upon completion of their Online Intensive first year, students will transition to join their in-person classmates in second year, completing the remaining two years of the Juris Doctorate program in person.

For more details on 1L Online Intensive and the admissions process, please visit this [page](#).

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



*Dr. Julia Hughes, Dean, Bora Laskin
Faculty of Law*



Lakehead University receives Ministry approval for Mechatronics Engineering program

Lakehead University's Faculty of Engineering has received approval from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to offer a new Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) program in Mechatronics Engineering for undergraduate students.

The inaugural cohort of Mechatronics Engineering students will begin their studies at Lakehead's Thunder Bay, Ont. campus in September.

Mechatronics Engineering is a new and rapidly growing multi-disciplinary branch of engineering that is at the intersection of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering, and Computer Science. It is related to the design and fabrication of computer-controlled electromechanical systems, such as robots, drones, and autonomous vehicles.



The creation of the Mechatronics Engineering program at Lakehead has been spearheaded by **Professor Wilson Wang**, a faculty member in the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, who will now serve as the program's coordinator.

The program has been designed to prepare students to create technologies that support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

With sustainability and co-op at its core, this program will integrate business, law, and public safety into the learning experience – giving students a deeper and broader insight to accompany their engineering expertise.

Students have the option to enrol directly from high school, or via Lakehead's unique college transfer pathway that gives engineering technology diploma graduates the opportunity to complete their BEng degree in just two years.

Click [here](#) for more information about Lakehead's Mechatronics program.

Click here to read the media release...



CFA Institute recognizes Lakehead University's Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Major program

Lakehead University has become the latest university to be welcomed into the CFA Institute University Affiliation Program.

CFA Institute has recognized Lakehead's Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Major program as incorporating at least 70 percent of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) Program Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK).

The Lakehead program places an emphasis on the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

Entry into the CFA Institute University Affiliation Program signals to potential students, employers, and the marketplace that Lakehead University's Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Major curriculum is closely tied to professional practice and is well-suited to preparing students to sit for the CFA examinations.

Through participation in this program, Lakehead University is eligible to receive a limited number of CFA Program Student Scholarships each year.

The Faculty of Business Administration at Lakehead University is accredited by AACSB and CPA Ontario. The Faculty, and its precursor, the School of Business Administration, has been offering business programming since 1965.

The Faculty offers an Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Administration, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Management, and a Graduate Diploma in Accounting.

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Next-generation nursing manikin helps train students to save lives

Meet the new CAE simulation manikin that is now helping Lakehead University nursing students prepare for what it's like to save someone's life during a Code Blue emergency.

A Code Blue is called when a patient's breathing or heart stops. Understandably, this can be a high-anxiety moment for learners.

However, thanks to the Nursing Simulation Lab where the new manikin is used, Lakehead University's nursing students can practice their cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and team response in a safe environment.

The School of Nursing has been running simulated Code Blue labs for its final year BScN students since 2009.

With this new, high-tech manikin, students experience fully functioning and changeable vital signs (e.g., breathing, heartbeat, pulse), along with digital eye and pupil reactions. The new manikin offers computerized feedback in real time about the quality and consistency of each student's efforts.

Through the behind-the-scenes activities of the Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator, **Caroline Sabotig**, the manikin can speak with students until the moment they realize they must act fast to save the manikin's life.

With this new manikin, students will know if they are doing compressions properly when performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, also known as CPR, since the manikin indicates has software that provides real-time feedback on the quality and consistency of the resuscitation efforts.

The state-of-the-art manikin is compliant with the American Heart Association's cardiac life support guidelines.

This is another example of how Lakehead University is preparing nurses to work in Northwestern Ontario and beyond.

The Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, **Dr. Mirella Stroink**, said they are thrilled to offer this advanced simulation manikin as part of the student-learning experience in Lakehead University's School of Nursing.

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Fourth-year nursing student Marian Aigbogun, left, demonstrated CPR on Thursday, Aug. 24. Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator Caroline Sabotig used a tablet to control the manikin and to show Aigbogun if the CPR was effective.



Glenda Tibe Bonifacio named Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr. Glenda Tibe Bonifacio will join Lakehead University as the new Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on November 1, 2023.

Dr. Bonifacio is currently Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Lethbridge and a research affiliate of the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy. She completed her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at the University of the Philippines and earned her PhD from the University of Wollongong in Australia.

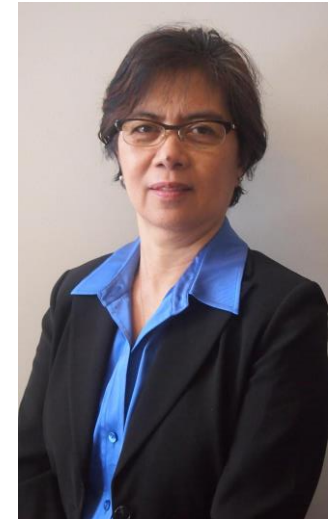
In addition to holding several administrative and governance roles at the University of Lethbridge, Dr. Bonifacio is a community-engaged scholar working in local and global contexts. Her research centres on the intersections of gender, migration, and disaster in island countries in Asia and the Pacific region. She is a Visiting Scholar with the University of the Ryukyus, an Honorary Research Fellow of the Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) hosted by Hiroshima University, and the recipient of the 2022 international research fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). She is also a member of the International Advisory Board of the Small Island Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI).

During her time at the University of Lethbridge, Dr. Bonifacio has been involved in the work of institutional transformation around issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion on campus. She is an elected member of the faculty association's Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee and in 2016 she co-founded the Support Network for Academics of Colour Plus (SNAC+) composed of diverse students, staff, faculty, and community members to promote equity, racial justice, and inclusion on campus and beyond. She also served as a racialized member of the Equity Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

Orillia was the first place she visited in Canada as a member of the Task Force for Youth Concerns of the Asia Alliance of YMCAs for the International Youth Year over 30 years ago.

Dr. Bonifacio succeeds Dr. Betsy Birmingham who has served as dean since July 2018.

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School of Nursing wins Food Drive Challenge with the LUSU Food Resource Centre

The LUSU Food Resource Centre (FRC) is a Lakehead University Student Union student centre that provides Lakehead University students with emergency food support, food-related education, and events.

Students who are experiencing food insecurity can access our emergency grocery pick-up program once every two weeks. The LUSU FRC also runs programming including the 'People's Potato' which offers free hot lunches to students; 'Chopped U' cooking classes; and the 'Good Food Box' which is a community program that provides individuals with fresh fruits and vegetables at a subsidized rate. Student food insecurity is a growing problem at Lakehead University. Over the 2022-2023 school year, almost 1 in 5 Lakehead University students in Thunder Bay accessed the LUSU FRC's emergency food support at least once throughout the year*.

To help support students and keep the shelves stocked, the LUSU FRC organized the Annual Departmental and Food Drive Challenge. University departments were asked to donate food items.

The food drive challenge was very successful, with over 2,700 food items donated! We are very happy to announce that the School of Nursing has come first place in the competition with over 544 food items donated! This was followed by Institutional Planning and Analysis and Indigenous Initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Faculty and Departmental Food Drive Challenge. Thank you all for your generous support and passion in supporting students experiencing food insecurity!

Want to donate but aren't sure which food items are needed?

Non-perishables (e.g., canned beans, canned tuna, dried lentils, rice, canned vegetables, etc.) Fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, eggs, and other produce Frozen vegetables, fruits, and meats. Please note: We cannot accept items past expiration or best before dates. Thanks again to the School of Nursing and the Lakehead community for assisting our students!* Based on the average student enrolment in Thunder Bay from 2011-2021.





Aramark joins Second Harvest Food Rescue App in Support of the LUSU Food Resource Centre.

Lakehead's division of Aramark continues to support students on campus through their leadership in food donation. Aramark provides a soup lunch weekly to students via the Food Resource Centre, sponsors two full meal plans for students in the World University Service of Canada Student Refugee Program, and is now expanding upon these efforts.

To mark the significance of the C2U Expo being held at Lakehead from June 5-8, Aramark coordinated regular food donations to the Food Resource Centre by way of Second Harvest's Food Rescue App. The donations will support emergency food access for Lakehead students and promote a more sustainable campus by reducing waste.



Orillia Campus Welcomes 2 Unique Cohorts

On July 4, the Orillia campus welcomed two cohorts of unique students to our campus with an orientation and day of connections. The 1-year intensive Social Work program and the Education Tech program students were given tours of campus, connections to services for when the need arises, and a chance to meet as many staff as possible.

Orillia has Pride!

On June 28, Orillia staff, students and even a few special guests gathered at the cafeteria for an event to celebrate diversity on our campus. Attendees were treated to delicious 'mocktails' and pizza and some lawn games on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Several booths were also set up featuring a variety of informative topics as well as some Pride themed arts and crafts.



Indigenous Initiatives on the Orillia Campus

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia) partnered with Student Health and Wellness to offer Wiigwasitig Gitigaan “Birch Tree Garden” Afternoons. This is an opportunity for students to participate in gardening and join in on various cultural initiatives in the Medicine Wheel Teaching Garden and the Three Sisters Garden every Friday afternoon from May to August.

Indigenous Initiatives partnered with the Office of the Principal and the department of Student Health & Wellness to Honour & Harvest Wiigwasitig ‘Birch Tree’ on June 8, 2023.

This day included harvesting the birch tree on campus with Amik Tree Services; the Birch Tree & Her Medicines teaching with Luana Harper Shirt and Kanzee Gitimido; and harvesting birch bark with Kyle Sauvé.

On June 18th, community members gathered to raise the tipi and learn together.

On August 26-26, the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator and Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives - with the support of many volunteers – represented Lakehead at the Chippewas of Rama First Nation Pow Wow. For the first time, our Interim Principal, Dr. Linda Rodenburg, participated in the Grand Entry alongside Gimaa Ted Williams.

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





Academic Excellence

NSERC providing more than \$1 million to Lakehead University researchers

Professors at Lakehead University are receiving more than \$1 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for exceptional, ground-breaking research that will make a difference.

Dr. Taryn Klarner is receiving a five-year Discovery Grant for \$177,500 to explore the specific way the human body's nervous system coordinates the arms and legs during rhythmic movement tasks such as walking and examine the dynamics of coordination at the behavioural level.

An Assistant Professor in Kinesiology, Dr. Klarner's research is divided into three related yet distinct objectives. All objectives are designed to be carried out by trainees in the lab at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Dr. Kang Kang is a Research Assistant Professor in Lakehead University's Biorefining Research Institute who is receiving a five-year Discovery Grant along with a Discovery Launch Supplement – for a total of \$172,500.

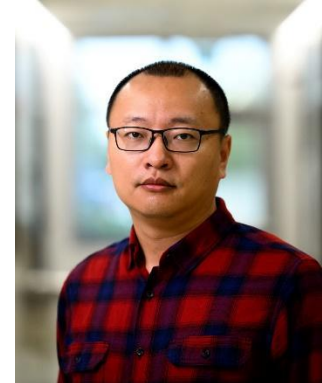
The long-term objectives of Dr. Kang's research are to enhance Canada's waste management and sustainable development strategies by promoting community energy access while contributing to a healthy environment.

Dr. Abdelhamid Tayebi, a Professor in Electrical Engineering, is receiving a one-year Research Tools and Instruments Grant for \$121,708 to establish a state-of-the-art research facility for the design and performance evaluation of advanced autonomous navigation systems.

This facility will be a great asset to Lakehead's robotics and aerospace research community.

In 2022/23, Lakehead University received more than \$2 million in assistance from the Research Support Fund to support the indirect costs of research, which includes costs for supporting the management of intellectual property, research and administration, ethics and regulatory compliance, research resources, research facilities, and research security.

[Click here to read the media release and full list of recipients...](#)





Researchers at the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity receive \$2.43M SSHRC grant

A new project led by **Dr. Erin Cameron**, adjunct member of Lakehead's Faculty of Education at Lakehead University and Academic Director at the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity at NOSM University, has received a \$2.43-million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant to address local health priorities.

Dr. Cameron and her team will foster relationships between communities and academics. The project will study how academic institutions can direct their education, research, and service activities to address community needs, both locally and globally. The growing global social accountability research movement urges academics to heed this call.

Dr. Cameron is excited to invest in and strengthen partnerships across institutions, organizations, and communities regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Supported in part by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant of \$2.43-million over seven years, the total project of \$3.2-million focuses on collecting and sharing best practices related to social accountability and scaling existing research projects on social accountability across new sites and settings. The project will also build capacity for socially accountable research. Co-directors in the project, Drs. David Marsh, Joseph LeBlanc, and Alex Anawati, along with a team of over 20 researchers and 12 partner organizations, aim to create and grow a connected social accountability research network.

Established in 2021 as the Centre for Social Accountability, the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity was born of the immutable conviction that everyone—regardless of circumstance or geography—deserves the dignity of equal access to health-care practitioners who are culturally competent, understand the realities of living in the rural and remote North, and lead with compassion and integrity.

Learn more about the funded project, titled [Community-engaged Research in Education, Advocacy, and system Transformation for advancing health Equity \(CREATE\): Exploring the Transformational Potential of Socially Accountable Research Networks Locally and Globally.](#)

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



Doctoral student recipient of 2023 Women's Health Scholars Award

As a growing number of women across Canada and the United States are choosing to not have children, **Erika Puiras**' research aims to shed light on the potential mental health consequences imposed by the stigma associated with being "childfree".

Puiras, a doctoral student in the clinical psychology program at Lakehead University, has been recognized for this work with the 2023 Ontario Women's Health Scholars award, which recognizes ground-breaking women's health research taking place across Ontario universities.

As part of her dissertation, Puiras is studying the experiences of intentionally childfree women and how stigma, including negative societal messages and discrimination, ultimately affects their mental health and overall wellbeing.

Under the supervision of **Dr. Dwight Mazmanian**, Professor in the Department of Psychology, she will explore whether childfree women experience self-stigma and how stigma influences their help-seeking behaviour and trust in health-care systems that have historically stigmatized this population.

Over the next year, Puiras hopes to engage with over 1,000 childfree women across Canada and the United States through questionnaires and in-depth interviews to learn more about their journey, hear about the stigma they've experienced and how it has impacted them as individuals.

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





Christopher Petersen wins Smythe Award

Recent Lakehead University graduate **Christopher Petersen** was one of three Dallas Smythe Award winners for his paper “Therapy Tech in Surveillant Smart Cities.”

This award, offered by the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), recognizes the groundbreaking scholarship of Canadian scholar Dallas Smythe. Petersen was able to present his scholarship this July at the IAMCR’s annual conference in Lyon, France.

In recognition of Smythe's work, the Dallas Smythe Award was established by IAMCR for “a paper which combines scholarly excellence with a commitment to developing and extending the critical, innovative and engaged spirit that characterised Smythe’s contribution to media/communications analysis.”

The Smythe Award Committee described Christopher Petersen's paper as: a critique of how the take-up of mental health therapy technologies is exploiting users, engaging them with the features of ‘gamification’ and ‘responsibilization’, at the same time as they surrender their personal data. This is cast in the context of the ‘dataveillance’ of ‘smart cities’, and explored via the case studies of Sidewalk Labs in Toronto, and the Inuit community of Nunavut.

Petersen initially developed his paper in a graduate seminar, “Surveillance and (In) Justice” taught by Dr. Debra Mackinnon, Winter 2023.

Petersen graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Social Justice Studies from Lakehead University and received the 2023 Dean’s Scholar Award in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. His masters research-creation project explored pop music and the problem with the nostalgia industry. He has a BA in Electroacoustic Music Studies from Concordia University, Montreal.

For a complete account of the Smythe award, please visit <https://iamcr.org/awards/smythe-2023-awarded>.





Lakehead's Dean of Engineering awarded 2023 Gold Medal by Engineers Canada

Professor Janusz Koziński, Dean of Engineering at Lakehead University, has received the prestigious Gold Medal Award from Engineers Canada.

The Gold Medal Award, the highest distinction for professional engineers in Canada, recognizes the exceptional achievements of engineers who, through their work and service, have improved the lives of Canadians and others across the world.

Dr. Koziński received the Gold Medal at the Engineers Canada Awards ceremony that took place in Halifax on Thursday, May 25.

Currently Dean of Engineering at Lakehead University, Dr. Koziński is an internationally renowned higher education leader, researcher, and entrepreneur with almost three decades of experience in engineering education across the world.

Before joining Lakehead, Koziński was previously Founding President of the New Model Institute for Technology & Engineering in the UK, Founding Dean of the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University, and Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

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Lakehead University's Electrical Engineering program scores top marks

Lakehead University's Electrical Engineering degree program has received the maximum possible accreditation from a recent review conducted by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB).

The Electrical Engineering program has received accreditation for a full six years, up to June 30, 2029.

"This accreditation represents a ringing endorsement of Lakehead's Faculty of Engineering. It celebrates our commitment to delivering high-quality professional programs that are academically rigorous and align with the needs of industry," said **Dr. Janusz Kozinski**, Dean of Engineering.

Lakehead's Department of Electrical Engineering offers outstanding undergraduate and graduate education, along with world-class researchers.

"We are very proud to receive this latest approval from our regulatory body," Dr. Kozinski added.

Lakehead's undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering was first established in 1974, and it has achieved accreditation ever since.

The CEAB, part of Engineers Canada, accredits Canadian undergraduate programs in engineering.

Students who receive a degree from an accredited engineering program meet the academic requirements needed to become licensed with Canada's engineering regulators.



Holly Prince receiving a Canadian Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award

Lakehead University's **Holly Prince** has been selected to receive the Inclusion Vanguard Award at the annual Canadian Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award Ceremony on June 1 in Toronto.

Prince is an Anishinaabekwe and a member of Opwaaganisiniing in Northwestern Ontario. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is a PhD candidate in Educational Studies at Lakehead University.

She is the Lead for the Indigenous People's Health and Aging Division at the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health at Lakehead University, where she works as a Project Manager.

A part of her role involves planning, implementing, and evaluating palliative care education and research for Indigenous peoples across Canada.

Her research focuses on decolonial and Indigenist education, Indigenous health, and community-based research. She has devoted the last 20 years to advancing the right of Indigenous peoples' access to culturally appropriate and equitable palliative care and has mobilized her efforts as a national champion of human rights and dignity for people at the end of life.

Prince's work is guided by Elders and Knowledge Carriers and responds to the identified needs of Indigenous communities. It acknowledges that Indigenous peoples must lead the way forward in developing approaches to caring for people at the end of life to achieve equitable and culturally safer care.

She is the Project Lead for the Indigenous Voices: Stories of Serious Illness and Grief project. With guidance from a national Elders and Knowledge Carriers Circle, resources on living with advanced illness, dying, grief and advanced care planning were developed to educate and empower patients, families, and communities.

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ONCAT awards \$210,794 to support post-secondary students and pandemic learning challenges

The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) has awarded over \$560,000 to eight postsecondary institutions in Ontario to develop programs and supports for students impacted by the pandemic.

These projects include summer courses to help students recover pandemic-related academic gaps, coaching and mentorship programs to help students transition to and adjust to postsecondary studies, and specialized supports for Indigenous learners, mature students, and prospective students from historically unrepresented groups.

All are designed to support the successful experience of students whose academic journeys have been disrupted over the last few years.

Led by **Dr. Leigh Potvin** and **Dr. Julie Rosenthal** from Lakehead's School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism, \$98,594 has been awarded for a project to enhance pathway-transfer for Indigenous students in the North with an interest and/or career goals in outdoor recreation, parks and/or tourism.

Participating institutions/partners include Collège Boréal, Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology, Indigenous Tourism Ontario, Destination Northern Ontario, and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation).

Another project led by **Andrea Tarsitano**, Vice-Provost (Students) and Registrar, and **Aimee Jaun**, Associate Vice-Provost (Students), has been awarded \$35,750 to enhance the transition of transfer and mature students to university. A team from both Lakehead campuses will work collaboratively with internal and external partners to develop a seminar course to help students develop awareness of university supports and academic expectations.

Through the Seamless Transfer Program, a third project being led by Tarsitano and Jaun has received \$76,450 for the development of a mature student orientation leaders' model to increase capacity internally by creating a sustainable, broad support network of mentors and leaders.

Working collaboratively with Confederation College, this project will allow for early engagement in building awareness and offering of targeted supports for mature and transfer students in addition to students who face ongoing barriers.

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Marcela Garcia Bueno is receiving the Robert Poulin Award for her dedication to Lakehead University

Marcela Garcia Bueno is the recipient of this year's Robert Poulin Award, presented to a full-time Lakehead University student for their outstanding citizenship.

She is an international student at Lakehead Thunder Bay who is from Guadalajara, Mexico.

Marcela was admitted into Lakehead's Honours Bachelor of Commerce program in February 2020.

She was awarded one of Lakehead's highest entrance scholarships, which she has kept by maintaining an average greater than 90 per cent during her first three years at Lakehead.

Since 1952, Lakehead University has presented the Robert Poulin Award annually to a full-time student selected by their fellows, the faculty and administration, for contributing most to the welfare of the University through student activities.

Lakehead named the Robert Poulin Award after an outstanding Forestry graduate from the Lakehead Technical Institute who died at the age of 20 due to a workplace accident.

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Enactus Lakehead Takes on National Exposition

This past week, the team from Lakehead University took part in the Enactus Canada National Exposition to compete with their project GetFinLit, their Financial Literacy workshop that teaches high school and university students the essentials of Financial Literacy, along with, top job skills. Each year, students from Enactus teams from all over Canada take part in a series of Regional and National challenges. This year marks the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic that teams have had the opportunity to compete in person. This year's National exposition was held in Montreal, Quebec at the Palais de Congrès de Montréal. Teams competed in one of 10 leagues, with the top two teams from each league moving on to the Semi-Finals.

Each year, Enactus Canada also recognizes the commitment and actions of members within the Enactus network. Team President Brandon Rehfuhs was recognized with the Founder's Bursary presented by the John Dobson Foundation recognizing his superior leadership and how he has gone above and beyond to help develop the team this past academic year. Brandon also was recognized with the Enactus Canada Gold Community Service Leadership Award. In addition, Morgan Gordon, the team's Vice-President of Marketing, was recognized with the HSBC Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Award presented by HSBC Bank Canada. Morgan was one of the top 9 award recipients who were selected and recognized at the National Exposition.

Throughout the whole event, participants were able to talk and network with industry professionals and leaders.

Enactus Lakehead would like to thank all of the students, faculty, and staff who have volunteered numerous hours to advise and assist the team throughout all of its activities, including from the Faculty of Business Administration and from Ingenuity. Without the support of these individuals as well as the team's sponsors, inspirational trips like these would not be possible.

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Alexis Harvey made important connections at the provincial Three-Minute Thesis Competition

Alexis Harvey recently returned to Thunder Bay after placing third in the provincial Three-Minute Thesis Competition held at Queen's University.

Alexis travelled to Kingston in May after placing first in Lakehead University's Three-Minute Thesis Competition during Research and Innovation Week. She said preparing for the competition was daunting, especially since she dislikes public speaking.

The Master of Health Science graduate student's thesis examines how education is helping or hindering the formation of just and socially responsible healthcare providers.

Stemming from her background as a health educator in the state of Alaska and as a former US Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Spain, Alexis's research seeks to uncover wise practices for education and, ultimately, health equity.

After placing first at Lakehead's Research and Innovation Week and receiving the People's Choice Award, Alexis felt proud of her work. She realized that not only did her presentation make sense, it also moved people. To prepare, she worked alongside the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, **Dr. Chander Shahi**, as well as his assistant, Taylor Laughton, to help refine her presentation by doing a mock presentation with them. Dr. Shahi served as a mentor during the preparation phase.

After spending the day before the competition with other participants, Alexis realized how nervous they all were. Describing it as more of a "friendly Ted Talk," Alexis said she was more excited to learn who won the participants' choice award, because that determined who the group felt did the best in relaying their research. Alexis encouraged other graduate students to participate in this event next year if they can, due to the chance to gain public speaking skills in a supportive environment.

Alexis will be defending her thesis later this summer before finishing her master's program.

Press play [here](#) to watch her Three-Minute Thesis presentation at Queen's University.

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





Local and Global Partnerships

MP Kurek Visits Lakehead University

Battle River-Crowfoot, Alberta Member of Parliament Damien C. Kurek visited Thunder Bay in late July to reach out to stakeholders in the region relating to his portfolio as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee, and as an MP actively interested in agriculture.

During his meetings, Kurek visited Lakehead University twice, once to meet with **Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota** and again to meet with **Dr. Wensheng Qin**.

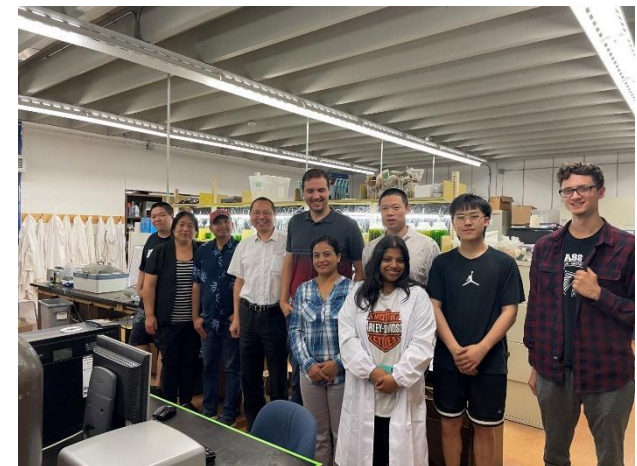
During that week, Kurek's meeting with Dr. Sahota took place at the Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station and included a meeting with Jason Reid, the director of Beef Farmers of Ontario, where they discussed the issues in the sector, as well as the work Dr. Sahota has done on crop and nutrient management practices.

Kurek also met with Dr. Qin and one of his classes at the main campus. During their meeting, Kurek was pleased to learn more about biofuels and bioproducts and discuss how the use of these can be balanced with food security and the productive use of the energy resources already available.

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(From left to right) MP Damien Kurek meets with Dr. Tarlok Sahota, Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station (LUARS), and Jason Reid, Beef Farmers of Ontario, at LUARS.





Lakehead University representatives attended annual Anishnawbe Keeshigun events

Thanks to Lesley Ng of Fort William Historical Park for inviting Clarence Surette (President of the Thunder Bay Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society) and Jill Taylor-Hollings (President of the Ontario Archaeological Society), both from the Department of Anthropology at Lakehead University, to the annual Anishnawbe Keeshigun events August 19 and 20.

They did flintknapping and pottery workshops while park employees Liam Nicholls and Rowan Patterson demonstrated atlatl (spear) throwing with the visitors.

These events also provided a great opportunity to discuss the importance of archaeology in Northwestern Ontario.



SES Biotechnology & Allied Sciences Symposium - SESBASS 2023

The Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies is hosting the SES Biotechnology and Allied Sciences Symposium (SESBASS) on September 21, 22, 2023. SESBASS 2023 will be held in FB 2023 in the CASES building at Lakehead University.

We are inviting abstracts in the following areas:

Environmental Biotechnology

Applied Microbial Biotechnology

Detection and Bioremediation

Renewable Green Energy

Materials Research

Biorefining and Lignin

Nanostructures

Medical Innovations

Medical Imaging

Digital Health

Bio-inspired Engineering

AI and Machine Learning

Biomedical Engineering and Biomechanics

Rapid testing for novel viral strains

Information about abstract submission and registration can be found on [our website](#).



Researchers and community partners honoured at C2UExpo Gala Awards

Lakehead University's Offices of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation and Research Services hosted the Community-College-University Exposition (C2U Expo), which is Canada's leading conference on community-based research and community-campus engagement. Supported by Community-Based Research Canada (CBRCanada), the conference brought together approximately 400 community-based organizations, Indigenous groups, researchers and students from academic institutions, grass-root organizations, policy-makers, and knowledge mobilization experts from Thunder Bay, the region, and beyond. Held from June 5-8, 2023 in Thunder Bay, for the very first time in a small university and in a small community, the conference brought new perspectives on the unique challenges of universities and communities in northern rural contexts. Keynote and plenary speakers of international fame included Prof. Maui Hudson from University of Waikato, New Zealand; Dr. Eve Tuck from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto; Liz Weaver from Tamarack Institute; and Norbert Steinhaus from the Wissenschaftsladen Bonn (Wila Bonn – Bonn Science Shop).

Researchers and their community partners were honoured at the C2UExpo 2023 Gala Awards dinner held at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay on Wednesday, June 7.

Dr. Scott Hamilton, Professor in Anthropology at Lakehead University, with **Dr. Jill Taylor-Hollings**, **Clarence Surette** and **Chris McEvoy** from Anthropology, and William Dumas, Knowledge Keeper and main author of the book series Six Seasons of the Asiniskaw Īthiniwak, received the Indigenous Research Partnership Award from Lakehead University. The Six Seasons project is mainly funded by a \$2.5 million SSHRC Partnership grant, the major objective of which is to support the ongoing work of reclaiming Indigenous languages, histories, and knowledges among the Asiniskaw Īthiniwak (Rocky Cree).





Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Associate Professor in Lakehead University's Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH) and in the Department of Health Sciences; **Dr. Nisha Sutherland**, Associate Professor with the School of Nursing; Carlina Marchese, Knowledge Broker from CERAH; and the North West Dementia Working Group received the Community Engaged Research Award from Lakehead University. Their research explores building capacity to enable people living with dementia to have meaningful participation in their community. For this project, researchers and community partners, the North West Dementia Working Group, used an asset-based community development approach to identify opportunities to strengthen community initiatives and make them inclusive of people living with dementia.

Community-Based Research Canada presented the Excellence in Community-Campus Research Partnership Award to **Dr. Ruth Beatty**, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University; Christina Ruddy from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation; and Colinda Clyne, Anishinaabe kwe, Kitigan Zibi and Coordinating Principal of Indigenous Education for the Upper Grand District School Board. Their project began in 2012 when research teams comprising Anishinaabe and Métis leaders, artists, and educators, as well as non-Indigenous educators, began working to explore connections between Anishinaabe or Métis cultural practices and the mathematics inherent within these practices.

For more information on C2UExpo, visit ec.lakeheadu.ca/c2uexpo/welcome and [here](#).

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Research in Action: Answering the call of the life-giving waters of Gichigami

When the Thunder Bay Art Gallery opens the doors to a new building on the waterfront, visitors will be treated to an expansive exhibition space, the centrepiece of which will be pieces from more than two dozen artists inspired by the proximity to Lake Superior. Among the contributors to this large-scale series will be two Lakehead University faculty members and four sessional lecturers.

A multidisciplinary artist, **Shahsahabi** is joined by colleague Roly Martin and several former students now employed as contract lecturers.

This series is called Madaabi, an Anishnaabemowin (Ojibway language) term for “s/he/they goes down to shore.” Madaabi encompasses the themes of people, place and land.



Shahsahabi has finished a two-part piece, based on water memory and how it can be preserved through sacred geometry. There are two elements to it: one is copper, with acid and enamel representing the Sleeping Giant. Copper was traditionally used by Indigenous Peoples in the Middle East as a healing alloy. The second part is a representation of the reflection of the Sleeping Giant in the lake, done in encaustic. Shining and buffing both the beeswax and copper can create a reflective surface. The effect is that viewers will see a reflection of themselves, hopefully inspiring them to also consider Indigenous peoples' attachment to this landmark and what they have witnessed throughout history.

Julie Cosgrove is another contributor. A graduate of the Visual Arts program, she has been a contract lecturer in the department since 2012. Her piece for Madaabii will consist of four paintings on canvas, “journeying in Northern waters,” exploring the relationship between water and the creative process. The inspiration was a reproduction of the historical map of Lake Superior and Hudson Bay created in

Research in Action highlights the work of Lakehead University in various fields of research.

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Lakehead University opens Climate Action Park

On June 6, Lakehead University hosted the grand opening for its Climate Action Park at the newly expanded fire pit with members from the campus and community.

Lakehead's Climate Action Park is a co-designed space that aims to restore aquatic habitat along the shoreline of the McIntyre River, improve stormwater management through Low Impact Development (LID) techniques like the bioretention site and riparian area, raise awareness of the climate crisis, and create a place for connection and learning.

Dr. Lindsay Galway, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences, described the process of co-creating the park with help from the community.

The development of the Climate Action Park at Lakehead University has been led by the Office of Sustainability, the Lake Superior Living Labs Network, and the Thunder Bay Remedial Action Plan.

It has also been funded and supported by the Great Lakes Local Action Fund, World Wildlife Fund Canada, EarthCare Thunder Bay, and Lakehead University departments such as the Provost's Office, Office of Research and Innovation, Alumni Association, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Business Administration, and Physical Plant.

The park is part of a broader effort in Thunder Bay that also includes the LRCA's Climate Change Awareness Park at Fisherman's Park West.

Lakehead University also acknowledges the many campus and community members who contributed to the visioning of this space, and in particular, Elders Gene Nowegejick, Peggy Smith, and Beatrice Twance-Hynes.

As part of the opening, earlier in the day local high school students participated in a planting and learning day at the Climate Action Park during C2U Expo's Climate Action Field School, facilitated by outdoor education graduate students from Lakehead's Faculty of Education and advisors Elder Gerry Martin and Greenhouse Manager Keri Pidgen-Welyki.

This "Go Wild" project aims to engage youth in habitat restoration efforts on campus and is funded by the World Wildlife Fund Canada.

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

