



**April 2017**

# **President's Report to Board of Governors**



**Lakehead**  
UNIVERSITY



## Office of the President

### Chancellor Derek Burney honoured with portrait

At a special event on March 2, a portrait of **Dr. Derek H. Burney**, Lakehead's eighth chancellor, was unveiled and hung on the Senate Chambers wall next to the University's seven previous chancellors. Since his appointment as Chancellor in January 2013, Dr. Burney has used his influence and experience as a diplomat, entrepreneur, and strategist to further Lakehead's academic, political, and philanthropic endeavours.

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



### Lyn McLeod named Lakehead University's next Chancellor

**Lyn McLeod** was named Lakehead University's next Chancellor on March 8 at a special event in Lakehead's Senate Chambers. On March 22, she was formally introduced to members of our Orillia campus and Orillia community at a reception in Simcoe Hall's Alumni Commons. McLeod, who currently resides in Alliston, near Orillia, is also a member of the Board of Governors at Georgian College in Barrie. She will be formally installed as Lakehead's ninth Chancellor at the first of the University's several convocation ceremonies, in June 2017.

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

### Vice-President (External Relations) contract extended

I am pleased to report that Deb Comuzzi's role as Vice-President (External Relations) has been extended one year with the option to renew at that time. Deb began at Lakehead in 2012, and has since played a pivotal role in establishing the first-ever External Relations portfolio for Lakehead University that includes philanthropy, alumni relations, community engagement, government relations, marketing/branding, and event planning/execution. Her ability to create a strong professional team has allowed our University to experience significant growth in each of these areas for what she is responsible.

I wish Deb and the External Relations team continued success.





## NOHFC announces \$5 million for CASES

On March 31, Minister of Northern Development and Mines Bill Mauro announced the NOHFC's funding of \$5 million to support our new Centre for Advanced Studies in Engineering and Sciences (CASES), which will include space for advanced training programs for graduate students and modern research facilities.

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

## Women's Hockey Champions

I recently hosted a congratulatory reception in my office for Lakehead University's women's hockey team. In March, the team won the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division Two championship in their first official season in the league.

*[Click here for CBC story...](#)*



## Permafrost now at Lakehead University Library

On April 6, Scholars Portal and the Lakehead University Library were pleased to announce a collaboration on the development of *Permafrost*, a new preservation service to help protect the unique digital collections held by Ontario's university libraries and archives.

*Permafrost* is a proposed cloud-hosted digital preservation service for members of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL). It will provide the preservation processing system Archivematica in conjunction with OCUL's cloud storage network, the Ontario Library Research Cloud.

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



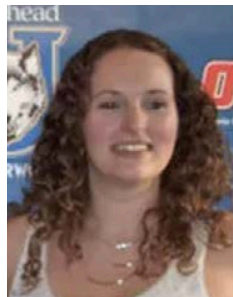
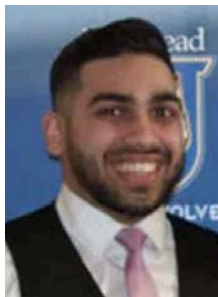
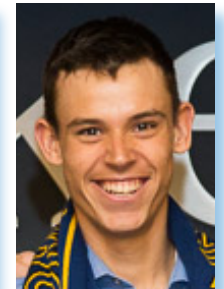
## Ministers Duncan and Hajdu visit Lakehead Thunder Bay

**The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science** visited our Thunder Bay campus, April 18, as part of a two-day trip and tour of research-related facilities in the city. Her visit to our campus included a meeting with me, during which I shared information about various initiatives related to her Ministry, as well as a tour of our campus's research labs and CASES building with our Vice-President (Research & Innovation) Dr. Andrew Dean, and telepresence classroom. The Honourable Patty Hajdu joined us, briefly, and shared her admiration of Lakehead University and its growth over the years with Minister Duncan.

## Learner-Centred Student Experience

### Celebrating Athletics and Top Athletes

Our Thunder Bay campus's Lakehead Athletics Annual Awards Gala was held on April 1<sup>st</sup> in the John N. Paterson Faculty of Law Auditorium at PACI. Our Thunderwolves successfully celebrated the hard work and dedication that the student athletes put in during the 2016/2017 season. **Jenn Jackson** (Nordic Skiing) walked away with the Female Athlete of the Year, with **Kevin Tree** (Cross Country) reclaiming the Male Athlete of the Year once again. Both athletes had outstanding seasons with Tree taking home silver at OUA's and finishing fourth at Nationals. Jackson was a force to be reckoned with as she finished the year a national individual championship.



Our Orillia Campus Athletics Awards Banquet at the Hawk Ridge Golf and Country Club also took place on April 1<sup>st</sup>. **Kareem Poonah** of the men's soccer program was named Male Athlete of the Year. The Female Athlete of the Year was awarded to **Shai Kemp** as she led the women's soccer team in winning its first game at the regional level to earn a berth at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association championship. This year, almost 100 athletes competed in eight different sports at the Orillia Campus.



## Nurturing Scholarship

### Lakehead University included in the Queen Elizabeth II Scholars Program

Lakehead University is one of 23 Canadian universities to be included in the new Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Advanced Scholars Program. Nationally, more than 450 researchers at the doctoral, postdoctoral and early-career levels will undertake global research, contributing to improved global talent exchange between Canada and other nations.

An award of \$660,000 has been granted to Drs. Brian McLaren and Chander Shahi of Lakehead's Faculty of Natural Resources Management in collaboration with Drs. Charles Levkoe and Mirella Stroink in the University's Faculty of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

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

**QUEEN  
ELIZABETH**  
*Scholars*



### Lakehead, TBRHSC Research Ethics Boards align

The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) and Lakehead University have strengthened the research ethics review process. A new reciprocal agreement leverages the strengths of each organization's Research Ethics Board.

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

*TBRHSC Vice President, Research and Chief Scientist Dr. Abraham Rudnic, and Lakehead University Vice-President (Research & Innovation) Dr. Andrew Dean sign reciprocal agreement.*





## YMCA/Lakehead University Leadership Program

We recently marked the beginning of a new chapter for the YMCA/Lakehead University (Orillia) Not-For-Profit Leadership Program with **20 participants** being the first to complete all three of its Levels.

The YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka and Lakehead University Orillia launched the collaborative Not-for-Profit Leadership Program in February, 2015. Since then, 113 participants from 46 different organizations have taken part in this Trillium Foundation-sponsored initiative.



## Canadian Bar Association awards Law Professor

**Assistant Professor Miriam Cohen** in the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is the first person at Lakehead University to receive this competitive research grant from the Canadian Bar Association's Law for the Future Fund. Cohen was recently awarded \$23,500 to create a database comparing human rights decisions from across Canada.

[\*Click here for media release...\*](#)



## Researcher reveals Lake Winnipeg's level of plastics

**Dr. Michael Rennie**, an assistant professor in Biology at Lakehead University and Canada Research Chair in Freshwater Ecology and Fisheries, oversaw the first ever study of microplastics in Lake Winnipeg. His work revealed concentrations higher than those reported in Lake Huron and Lake Superior, and similar to those reported in Lake Erie.

[\*Click here for media release...\*](#)



## Lakehead University students present tourism project to City of Thunder Bay

In the fall of 2016, students in Lakehead University's School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism completed two major tourism projects for Tourism Northern Ontario.

Fourth-year students Meredith Davy, Alischa Bower, Jake O'Flaherty, and Karter Sutch presented their work to Paul Pepe, Manager of Tourism, City of Thunder Bay, on April 11.

[\*Click here for media release...\*](#)

## Engineering's Steel Bridge Team headed to national competition... again

Lakehead University's Civil Engineering Steel Bridge Team has, once again, placed first overall at the AISC/ASCE Student Steel Bridge Competition, Mid-West Region, which means Lakehead has qualified for the 2017 US National Competition, hosted by Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon in May.

Students **Nicole Visser**, **Samuel Gagnon**, **Jonathan Morrow**, **Thomas Gobeil** and **Derek Bulsink** are competing on the Lakehead bridge team, with **Dr. Tony Gillies** serving as the faculty advisor and **Conrad Hagstrom** as the support technologist. Kailash Bhatia acted as machinist advisor to the team.

[\*Click here for media release...\*](#)





## Community Engagement

### Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference 2017

On March 6, Lakehead University hosted the 2017 PDAC Alumni and Friends breakfast at the InterContinental in Toronto for more than 100 attendees.

Each year, Lakehead University grows its presence at the PDAC conference and 2017 was no exception. The conference is an excellent opportunity for our delegation to attend industry events, reconnect with our alumni, cultivate towards new gifts and participate in a booth with our partners, Confederation College, and the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission.

The Honourable Minister Bill Mauro provided opening remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Updates were provided on the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration by Dr. Pete Hollings (CESME Director), recent gifts were announced by Dr. David Barnett (Dean of the Faculty of Engineering) and attendees heard a presentation by Dr. Pedram Fatehi (Canada Research Chair and Industrial Research Chair) on the exciting work that he is conducting in Green Chemicals and Processes.



### Donors meet Students at *Success Through Giving* Luncheon

Lakehead University hosted a luncheon that brought together students who have received bursaries or awards and the donors who have supported them.

Students had the opportunity to thank the donors who have assisted them and share how these contributions have impacted their education and university experience. For many students, these bursaries and awards have made their education dreams a reality.

The luncheon was hosted by Deb Comuzzi, Lakehead Vice-President (External Relations), with remarks from David Tamblyn, Chair of the Lakehead University Board of Governors, and Dr. Michel Beaulieu, President of the Alumni Association of Lakehead University.





## Canada's Chief Justice launches *Bora Laskin Distinguished Lecture Series*

On April 3, the Chief Justice of Canada, The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, kicked off our Bora Laskin Distinguished Lecture Series with her talk about the challenges of *Delivering Justice in Canada's North*.

More than 280 people registered for the live-streamed event that included the Chief Justice taking questions from the crowd and plenty of photo opportunities.



*Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin speaks to a capacity crowd at John N. Paterson Faculty of Law Auditorium.*



## Western Canada Alumni Engagement

Lakehead University held alumni engagement lunches in three western cities at the end of March. Events took place in Calgary, Vancouver, and Victoria with alumni from all backgrounds and decades of graduation. The Calgary Chapter of the Alumni Association looks forward to continuing to engage our alumni population in Alberta with several events planned before the end of the summer. Our energetic group in Vancouver is looking forward to the possible formation of an Alumni Chapter, and an Alumni Ambassador has been identified in Victoria.



Board of Governors member and alumna Francis Picherack joined Alumni and Community Relations Director Mark Tilbury at the event.



## Former Truth & Reconciliation Commissioner visits Lakehead

On March 22, Lakehead University's Chair on Truth and Reconciliation, Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, and the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives hosted a free public talk by **Dr. Marie Wilson**, who spoke of her work as the former Commissioner for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

## LUSU President Recognized

Prior to Dr. Marie Wilson's talk (see above), Lakehead University Student Union President **Farhan Yousaf** was presented with the *Diversity Thunder Bay's Respect Award*, which is conferred on those who promote the beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that recognize the importance of human dignity.





## Growth & Capacity Development

### MOU signed with CITNOVA

On March 21, Lakehead University welcomed a delegation from CITNOVA (Council for Science, Technology and Innovation of the Government of the State of Hidalgo, Mexico) on March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>.

The delegation consisted of **Jose Alonso Huerta Cruz, Director General**, Alejandro Ordaz Teissier, Director of Talent Management, and Marcela Alvarez Guevara, Director of Entrepreneurship.

The purpose of visit was not only to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions for future cooperation of the international relations in the field of academic, scientific and technological research projects but also to meet with 10 indigenous women from the state of Hidalgo who were studying our English Innovation Programs - Indigenous Stream.



### Maple Leaf Schools visit

On March 20-21, Lakehead University's partnership with Maple Leaf Educational Systems (MLES) took another step forward when Mr. James Beeke, Superintendent of Global Education, Executive Director/Vice President: China Maple Leaf Educational Systems Board of Directors, Liaison: BC Ministry of Education for Maple Leaf Schools, Special Advisor to the Chairman visited our Thunder Bay Campus for the second time.

The visit included meetings with the Faculty of Education and Lakehead University International, and reaffirmed our commitment to nurture our existing joint efforts with MLES, and also facilitated explorations on how to grow our partnership through the Maple Leaf-Lakehead Future Teachers Program, new professional development training for MLES teachers, and expanding enriched overseas training experiences for Lakehead teacher candidates.