

June 2020



President's Report to Board of Governors



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

**LAKEHEAD
UNIVERSITY**
— **TOP 100** —
**UNIVERSITIES
WORLDWIDE**

We're proud to be in the top 100 Universities from 85 countries around the world in the *Times Higher Education Impact Rankings*!

THE *Impact Rankings* are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

As one of a select group of universities from around the world, Lakehead is committed to influencing change, and ensuring the health and sustainability of our communities, locally and globally. These results speak to the exceptional work of our students, faculty, staff and alumni through innovation, research, teaching and learning.

Lakehead University is an innovative comprehensive university that provides an education that is about how to think, not what to think. This has never been more relevant than today!





Lakehead University in Top 100 of Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

Lakehead University has placed 98th in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings of 766 universities from 85 countries around the world. The rankings are based on the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and more than 220 measurements.

Lakehead is the only primarily undergraduate university in Canada that participated in the 2020 Impact Rankings. The University joined a select group of universities from around the world in the top 100, ranking ahead of several top comprehensive and research-intensive Canadian universities.

Lakehead received an overall score of 83.6 out of 100. The University scored highly in many of the SDGs, including top 20 in SDG 2: Zero Hunger, top 30 in SDG 1: No Poverty, top 30 in SDG 14: Life Below Water, top 60 in SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, top 60 in SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and top 70 in SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals.

Dr. Moira McPherson, Lakehead's President and Vice-Chancellor, said she was both excited and proud that Lakehead was ranked so highly.

"Two of Lakehead University's Strategic Plan's five pillars are social responsibility and local and global partnerships," Dr. McPherson explained. "To be ranked in the top 100, and top 50 on a number of goals out of 766 universities from around the world, recognizes the significant work our Lakehead community is doing to achieve our sustainability objectives. It also supports our commitment to Lakehead University's Sustainability Action Plan."

Dr. David Barnett, Lakehead's Provost and Vice-President (Academic), agreed.

"This ranking reminds us of Lakehead University's longstanding commitment to Indigenous learners and communities, and to being a leader in sustainability and social justice," Dr. Barnett said. "Our University community has really come together to make these SDGs a priority and this is an achievement that our students, staff, faculty and alumni should be proud of."

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings capture each university's impact on society based on efforts to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and align with commitments in Lakehead's Strategic and Academic Plans.

A set of performance metrics was developed and published at the Times Higher Education Innovation and Impact Summit held at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea in 2019. These metrics were refined in 2020 and expanded to include all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals.



The rankings explore the progress that a university can make specifically by examining themes of sustainability and complement the Times Higher Education World University Rankings announced annually in the fall.

In 2019 Lakehead University was included in the top half of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, ranking Lakehead in the 601-800 category out of nearly 1,400 universities from 92 countries.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings judges research-intensive universities across each one of their core missions: teaching (the learning environment); research (volume, income and reputation), international outlook (staff, students and research); citations (research influence); industry income (knowledge transfer).

4th annual Lakehead Leader Recognition Program awards

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the impressive contributions that students have made at Lakehead and beyond. In this time of uncertainty, it is important that we remember and recognize all of the amazing and positive contributions our students make year in and year out. Without our students, Lakehead would not be the exceptional and unconventional place that it is - a community with a passion for learning and a dedication to supporting one another.

This year marks the fourth year of the Lakehead Leader Recognition Program, a program based on the principles of Lakehead University's motto: Achievement Through Effort, and on our institution's Mission, Vision and Strategic and Academic Plans. Lakehead Leaders and Lakehead Luminaries are engaged contributors both on-campus and within their communities, they recognize and celebrate diversity and inclusivity, and they strive to achieve academic excellence. Students who exemplify these qualities may now be recognized as Lakehead Leaders and Luminaries - designations that will receive Co-Curricular credit and a certificate of achievement.

[Click here to see list of awards and recipients...](#)



Local high school students get creative in online workshop with Lakehead prof

Grade 11 students in Jeff Cole's environmental science class at Patrick Fogarty Catholic Secondary School are continuing to get hands-on Let's Talk Science programming through a unique partnership with Lakehead University **Dr. Chris Murray**, Associate Professor in the Departments of Sustainability Sciences and Physics.

In partnership with Cole, Murray has developed a way to keep high school students engaged while schools are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Using materials they find at home students carry out a weekly experiment, following a lesson given through a Zoom session by Murray and his student assistants from Lakehead.



[Click here for the full OrilliaMatters story...](#)

Academic Excellence

Research in Action: Studies reveal impacts of police surveillance technology

As a researcher studying the use and impacts of police body-worn cameras, **Dr. Alana Saulnier** is often asked if she's for or against surveillance technology.

"I always say that I don't know, and that it's dependent on the situation and the stakeholder perspective you adopt," says Saulnier, a criminology professor at Lakehead University's Orillia campus. "As a researcher, I'm not going in with a bias – I'm there to see what the data can tell us."

And as Saulnier is proving, the data has a lot to say. Largely driven by the public push for surveillance technology in the US, body-worn cameras (BWCs) are being piloted and adopted by a growing number of police services across Canada, including Thunder Bay and Toronto. But without rigorous study of the benefit, there are unanswered questions about the cost, additional workload, and best practices for use.

[Click here for the full story...](#)





Dr. Chris Mushquash named a 2020 Champion of Mental Health

The Canadian Alliance of Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) named Dr. Christopher Mushquash a Champion of Mental Health for the Innovation – Researcher or Clinician category.

Dr. Mushquash is a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University and the Division of Human Sciences at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and the Director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research at Lakehead University. He is a registered clinical psychologist providing assessment, intervention and consultation services for First Nations children, adolescents and adults at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.



Dr. Mushquash is Ojibway and a member of Pays Plat First Nation. He is a generous volunteer, frequently meeting with First Nations communities, organizations and students to discuss mental health and addiction. Through his work, he champions culturally and contextually appropriate mental health and addiction services for First Nations peoples, and for individuals living in rural and northern communities.

[*Click to view CAMIMH's video about Dr. Mushquash and his award...*](#)

New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration Awards

The objective of the Exploration stream is to support high risk, high reward and interdisciplinary research. It seeks to inspire projects that bring disciplines together beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches by research teams with the capacity to explore something new that might fail, but has the potential for significant impact.

Two Lakehead University professors were awarded \$250,000 each (over two years) from the federal *New Frontiers in Research Fund – Exploration* program:

- Drs. Zubair Fadlullah and Vijay Mago, Department of Computer Science, *Drone Aided Device-to-Device Networks for Communications and Health Connectivity in Remote Northern Ontario*.
- Dr. Maryam Ebrahimi, Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Low-dimensional Nanomaterials, *Department of Chemistry, Revisiting the pathway to the origin of life - Peptide bond formation from non-amino acid reactants*.



New NSERC Discovery and Discovery Development Grants (DDG)

The Discovery Grants Program supports ongoing programs of research with long-term goals rather than a single short-term project or collection of projects. These grants recognize the creativity and innovation that are at the heart of all research advances.

The DDG program provides resources to researchers from small universities whose DG applications were deemed to be of appropriate quality to merit research support, but were not funded in the DG Competition.

- 11 Discovery Grants, awarded for five years worth a total of \$1,875,000.
- 5 Discovery Development Grants awarded for two years with a total of \$150,000.

The above represents a total of \$2,025,000 in new NSERC funding. This is a 21.4% increase in NSERC funding this year, compared to last year.

Lakehead receives \$1.2 million 500 MHz Bruker Avance NEO Liquid & Solid-State NMR Spectrometer

Lakehead University has taken delivery of a new 500 MHz Bruker Avance NEO Liquid & Solid-State NMR Spectrometer. The purchase of this Spectrometer was made possible through the largest ever CFI-JELF award to two Lakehead University principal investigators (Drs Pedram Fatehi and Stephen Kinrade). The spectrometer will be installed in CB 0012C in August/September 2020.

NMR spectroscopy is used to study the physical, chemical, and biological properties of matter. Chemists use it to study the structure of molecules, molecular interactions, kinetics or molecular dynamics, and the composition of biological mixture, synthesized solution, or composite. The advantages of this new NMR Spectrometer over the current 17-year-old 500 MHz Varian liquid-based spectrometer is the ability for non-destructive analysis of the solid and liquid samples thus facilitating quantitative determination of concentration of molecules even in complex mixtures.



Social Responsibility

Lakehead researchers rise to the challenge to combat COVID-19

Lakehead researchers in Thunder Bay and Orillia are contributing significantly to Ontario's COVID-19 response effort.

In recent weeks, the Office of Research Services has submitted over 35 rapid response research proposals to programs like the Ontario Together Fund to Fight COVID-19, MITACS COVID-19 Program, Canadian Frailty Network Covid-19 Program, Thistledown Foundation Fast Grants Program, and the Vale COVID-19 Challenge, to name a few.

Our researchers are joining forces with our hospitals, community organizations, the private sector and civil society to present COVID-19 solutions, products, models or services that could help address the global outbreak and the COVID-19 response effort.

Projects are wide-ranging, and include interdisciplinary projects on:

- the mental health of first responders,
- alternative housing models,
- apps to enforce physical distancing directives,
- supply chain optimization,
- optimal resource allocation in hospitals,
- the impacts of COVID-19 on seniors and on women in shelters,
- testing of PPE and alternative filter media for front-line workers,
- point-of-care diagnostic testing, and
- approaches to tackle misinformation.

Dr. Siamak Elyasi with his prototype for sterilizing N95 masks using UV lights.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



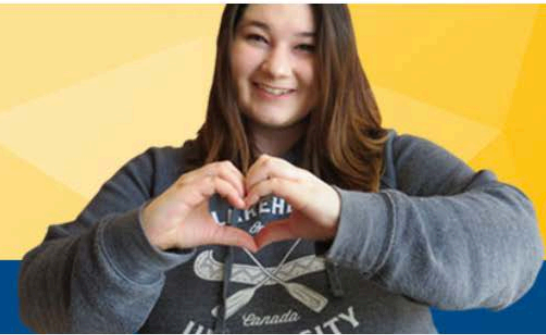


Student Relief Fund

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT
TO THE STUDENT RELIEF FUND!**

COVID-19

Student Relief Fund



Lakehead University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Lakehead University Student Union and the Alumni Association have launched the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund to help students impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Bursaries will assist with travel and living costs based on available funds and students' demonstrated financial need.

Current Progress

**\$97,546.00 raised by 364
supporters**

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STUDENT RELIEF FUND AND DONATE](#)

[APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE](#)