



# President's Report to the Board of Governors

May  
2023





## Office of the President

### Ontario Government makes historic investment enabling Lakehead University and the University of Guelph to expand veterinary training, addressing critical workforce shortages

On March 23, as part of the Province of Ontario's annual Budget announcements, the Government unveiled that it would invest \$14.7M into our Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program in Rural and Northern Community Practice — a new collaborative program in partnership with the University of Guelph to increase the number of veterinarian graduates in Ontario by 20% per year, as well as support a new incentive program to expand number of large animal veterinarians practicing in underserved communities.

On April 28, a media event was hosted in Lakehead Thunder Bay's Agora. Speakers included MPP Kevin Holland, Ministers Jill Dunlop (Colleges and Universities), Lisa Thompson (Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), and Greg Rickford (Northern Development, Indigenous Affairs), as well as University of Guelph President Dr. Charlotte Yates.

The Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program in Rural and Northern Community Practice will support the economic growth of Ontario's agri-food sector by expanding the number of veterinarians trained in Ontario who are practicing within Northern, rural and Indigenous communities, ensuring livestock producers have the necessary veterinary services needed to expand operations.

The Veterinary Incentive Program will provide loan assistance to recently graduated veterinarians to practice in underserved areas and support large animal care.

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





## Provincial Ministers Promote Internet Infrastructure

On April 27, Provincial **Minister of Infrastructure Kinga Surma** was joined by myself, MPP Kevin Holland, and Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson to announce Ontario's new interactive online map to track high-speed internet projects at a media event hosted in Lakehead Thunder Bay's CASES atrium.

The Minister announced more than \$48 million in combined federal and provincial funding for a partnership project between Ontario and Canada by YorkNet, a corporation owned by the Regional Municipality of York, to bring high-speed internet access to over 3,800 homes in 31 Ontario communities.



CBC Thunder Bay photo

## Orillia Campus Welcomes the World!

The Welcome the World Fair took place in the Orsi Learning Commons on March 21st, as part of the County of Simcoe's ITSTARTS diversity awareness campaign.

The purpose of the Fair was to raise awareness and celebrate the various cultures represented on campus. Students and employees were encouraged to sign up to host a table and represent a country they had a particular connection with. Sixteen countries were represented by staff, faculty and students which showcased a diverse cross section of facts, trivia, food samples and activities unique to each country.

Attendees were given a passport and encouraged to all visit tables to learn about the various cultures and countries represented on campus.



## Formal partnership supports future of health care in Orillia and surrounding region

On Tuesday, March 21, Lakehead signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Orillia Soldier's Memorial Hospital, formalizing a partnership which will support the future of health care in Orillia and the surrounding region. Dr. Moira McPherson was joined by Carmine Stumpo, President and CEO of OSMH, Dr. Linda Rodenburg, Interim Principal of the Orillia campus, as well as members of the board of directors and senior leadership teams at both institutions for the historical event.

The University is looking toward the future with the addition of 10 new programs of study at the Orillia campus in the next 10 years – programs that align with the socio-economic needs of the region. And, OSMH is moving forward with transformation of health in Orillia through integration of services, including a new hospital build.



*From left: Peter Caldwell, second vice-chair Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Board of Directors and board member of Lakehead's Board of Governors, Ligaya Byrch, chair of OSMH Board of Directors, Carmine Stumpo, OSMH President and CEO, Dr. Moira McPherson, Lakehead President and Vice-Chancellor, Kathy Tuckwell, vice-chair Lakehead Board of Governors, and Brandon Rhéal Amyot, member Lakehead Board of Governors.*

Areas of possible collaboration between the University and Hospital are outlined in the MOU – from academic and non-academic program development to scholarly and health-related projects and research, to collaborative long-term planning, such as opportunities for sharing of human and capital resources.

[Click here to view media release...](#)

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



## Orillia March Break Open House

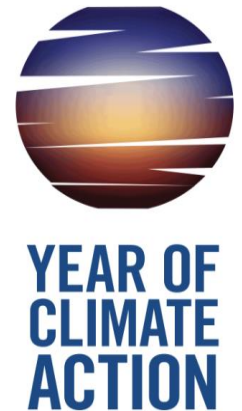
Orillia Student Affairs held a very successful two-day open house on March 14-15; welcoming potential students and families to the campus. Faculty provided informative sessions and prospective students were able to interact with current students and faculty regarding life on campus, programs, student activities and more. Tours of the campus and residence were also given. Students lined up to confirm their offers, and received give certificates to the bookstore and were featured on social media. There were proud parents and excited future Thunderwolves all over campus!

## Research and Innovation Week Events in Orillia

Research and Innovation Week Events in Orillia occurred between March 7-9. Among several faculty, student and community research presentations, guests also participated in the first ever SDG Week Canada, with a Climate Action Summit that brought together climate action leaders from both campuses to share climate-forward initiatives and research at Lakehead.

On March 9, Lakehead University hosted an industry breakfast for over 60 people, featuring a discussion on how it takes a community of partners and businesses to be cyber-secure. Regional experts, **Dr. Amir Ameli**, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Engineering at Lakehead University, Detective Sergeant Vern Crowley, OPP Cyber Crimes Investigation Team, and Laura Payne, Chief Enablement Officer and VP Security Consulting at White Tuque, will discuss how to keep yourself, business and community safe.

The event also featured opportunities to work with Lakehead through research projects and student co-ops.





## Athletic Banquet Honours Student Athletes

On April 6th, Lakehead Orillia held its annual athletic banquet to celebrate its Varsity, Extramural and Club teams. The event was co-hosted by Athlete of the Year winners Grace Heywood (Indoor Women's Soccer) and Jack Beck (Golf & Men's Hockey). All 2023 award winners are listed below.

### Graduating Athletes:

- Breann Sharma (Women's Indoor Soccer, Captain)
- Grace Heywood (Women's Indoor Soccer)
- Bruno Dias (Men's Indoor Soccer, Captain)
- Yuvraj Bakshi (Men's Indoor Soccer)
- Josh Brown (Golf)
- Emma Dunn (Women's Hockey)
- Anna Clarke (Women's Hockey)
- Ethan Sleep (Men's Hockey)
- Tyler Roberts (Men's Hockey)
- Ronnie Money (Men's Hockey)
- Danika Brown (Equestrian, Captain)
- Hunter Chmilnitzky (Equestrian)

### OCAA All-Academic Awards:

- Grace Heywood - Winter 2022 (Women's Indoor Soccer)
- Tyler Jackman - Winter 2022 (Men's Indoor Soccer)
- Joshua Brown - Fall 2022 (Golf)
- Noah Collins - Fall 2022 (Golf)
- Bobby Munro (Men's Hockey)
- Hunter Chmilnitzky (Equestrian)
- Keaira Luedee (Dance)

### Principal's Award:

- Breann Sharma (Women's Indoor Soccer, Captain)



### MVP Awards:

- Bethany Foster (Women's Indoor Soccer)
- Bruno Dias (Men's Indoor Soccer)
- Noah Collins (Golf)
- Mackenzie Callery (Women's Hockey)
- Tyler Jackman (Men's Hockey)
- Danika Brown (Equestrian)
- Amy Eakin (Dance)

### Athlete of the Year:

- Grace Heywood (Women's Indoor Soccer)
- Jack Beck (Golf & Men's Hockey)

### Rookie of The Year Awards:

- Anna Toomey (Women's Indoor Soccer)
- Jonathan Aronov (Men's Indoor Soccer)
- Patrick Hayes (Golf)
- Taylor MacLean (Women's Hockey)



## Academic Excellence

### Dr. Christopher Mushquash honoured with prestigious Canada Gairdner Momentum Award

On March 31, the 2023 Canada Gairdner Award recipients were publicly announced, and local clinical psychologist **Dr. Christopher Mushquash** is being honoured for his work in Indigenous-led mental health and substance use research.

Dr. Mushquash is Vice President of Research at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), Chief Scientist at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute (TBRHRI), a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, Professor at Lakehead University and NOSM University, and psychologist at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

In his work, Dr. Mushquash investigates Indigenous mental health, substance use, trauma, and general mental wellness. He partners with communities, government and academia and uses evidence-based approaches in alignment with First Nations values to ensure his research and its outcomes are culturally — and contextually — appropriate for people in First Nations, rural and northern communities.

Established in 1957, the Gairdner Foundation's annual awards recognize and celebrate researchers from around the world for their excellence in fundamental research that impacts human health. Over the years, 402 awards have been presented to people from more than 40 countries and of those awardees, 96 have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes. Dr. Mushquash is a recipient of the 2023 Canada Gairdner Momentum Award.

You can find out more about Dr. Mushquash's work at

<https://www.christophermushquash.com/>.

[Click here to view media release...](#)





## Lakehead music student taking the trip of a lifetime

A Lakehead University music student will take a life-changing trip this summer when he travels to Italy to study at the renowned Cremona International Music Academy.

Thanks to a \$5,000 scholarship from Lakehead University's Institute of Italian Studies, third-year music student **Amani Sloley**, who plays the viola, will spend 18 days studying with world-class musicians in the birthplace of the legendary violin maker, Stradivarius.

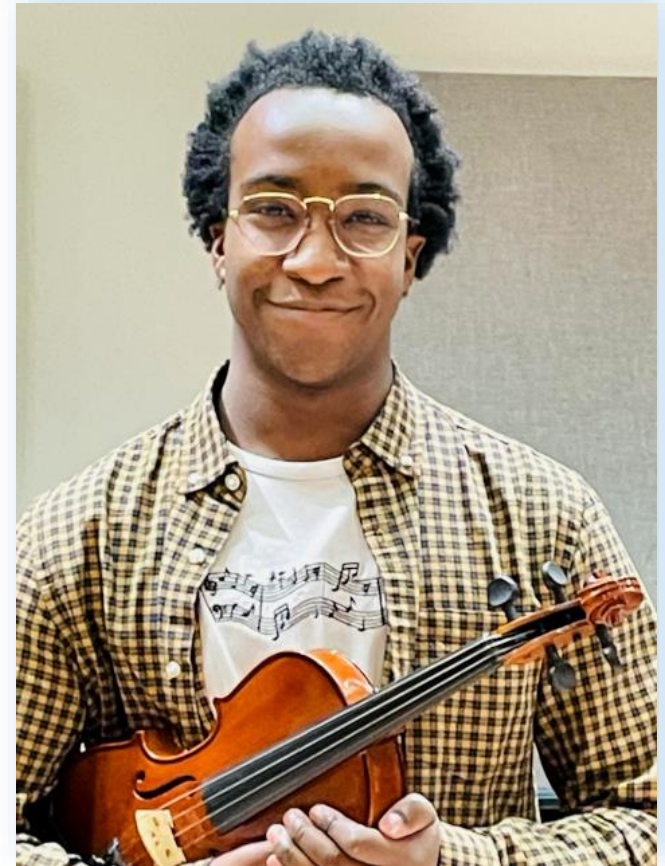
This immersive program offers a wide range of string and wind instruments, piano, voice, composition, and conducting courses.

In addition to working with esteemed faculty members from around the world, Sloley will participate in chamber music coaching and orchestral and ensemble training.

While at Cremona, Sloley wants to improve and expand his skills in performance and composition. During the program, he will participate in many workshops, including sight-reading, technique and interpretation, and orchestra performance. Workshops like these will help enhance his musical abilities.

Sloley moved to Thunder Bay from Brampton. He chose to study at Lakehead University because of the wonderful music facilities and the professors.

[Click here to view media release...](#)





## Reflections on UN CSW: Lakehead student attends United Nations Panel

For International Women's Day, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), brought the world together - from world leaders, NGOs, academics and civil society.

The theme of this year's UN CSW67 was: Innovation and Technological Change, and Education in the Digital Age. The UNCSW is the world's main policy-making body dedicated to working towards gender equality and the advancement of women.

**Meagan Malcolm**, a Masters of Social Justice Studies student at Lakehead University, was invited to speak on a panel and roundtable discussion at the UNCSW in New York.

The panel "Young Voices: Technology," hosted by National Alliance of Women's Organizations (NAWO) a London-based umbrella organization dedicated to promoting women's human rights with a special focus on gender and Europe.

Panelists discussed the importance of imagining a feminist internet, which is critical to bringing about transformation in gendered structures of power that exist on and offline. Disparities in access to technology, online violence, and surveillance disproportionately affect marginalized communities. Meagan pointed out that internet access should be the number one priority, but rather the ongoing genocide against Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people, a lack of access to clean drinking water and housing are the central crises impacting Indigenous communities.

Meagan, who is Anishinaabe from Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation, feels attending the CSW67 has been invigorating.

It was an inspiring week at the UN hearing from those who are advocating for the rights of women and girls globally. But she hopes more Indigenous and racialized young women can attend these meetings in the future.

[Click here to view media release...](#)





## Local and Global Partnerships

### **University of Manitoba, Lakehead University and University College of the North Partner on Project to Support Indigenous Students in Post-Secondary Science Research, Training and Mentorship**

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) announced an investment of \$1.65 million to build a six-year program that will train and mentor the next generation of Indigenous science researchers working in the north.

University of Manitoba Principal Investigator, Professor Stéphane McLachlan, is partnering with academic experts at Lakehead University and University College of the North to develop and operate a program aimed at providing Indigenous students more opportunities for experiential learning in science research and the workforce.

The program goal is to address the severe under-representation of Indigenous trainees and cultures in the natural sciences and engineering fields with mentorship in research and employment skills.

It will also fund cultural supports for Indigenous trainees to conduct environmental research through both traditional Indigenous ways of knowing and western science. At the same time, it will encourage cross-cultural understanding for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students interested in community-led environmental research. Lastly, the program will provide work-study training opportunities in collaboration with private, public and non-profit partners to connect Indigenous students with potential employers.

Funding for this initiative is provided through a federal government NSERC Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) grant. It supports the development of innovative training programs to address Canada's research priorities and transition new researchers and trainees into the workforce.

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



## Lakehead University is now a member of Research Impact Canada

Lakehead University has become a member of [Research Impact Canada \(RIC\)](#), an open and collaborative network of 20+ universities across Canada, committed to maximize the impact of research for communities. Researchers and Knowledge Mobilizers are invited to visit the RIC website to access the national knowledge mobilization community of practice networks, knowledge mobilization tools and resources. Learn about professional development opportunities including learning strategies for measuring the impact of research to better communicate the benefits of community-based research and engagement within our institution, to partners, to the communities we serve, and to funding agencies. For more information, contact Anne Klymenko, Director, Office of Research Services, E-mail: [Anne.Klymenko@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:Anne.Klymenko@lakeheadu.ca).

## EDI in Research Speaker Series: "Panel Discussion on How Research Assessment Metrics Need to Change to be More Inclusive"

The EDI in Research Speaker Series "Panel Discussion on How Research Assessment Metrics Need to Change to be More Inclusive" was held on March 28, 2023. This well-attended event included over 50 attendees from Lakehead University, the Tri-Agencies, as well as other universities within Canada. The panel discussed the need to transform the way that academics are reviewed, assessed and rewarded in order to create a more inclusive research culture. Moderated by Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction and Professor, Department of Psychology at Lakehead University, the panel included:

- **Dr. Julia Hughes**, Dean, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, Lakehead University
- Dr. Shauneen Pete, Chair, Emerging Indigenous Scholars Circle, Royal Roads University
- Dr. Karine Duhamel, Director of Indigenous Strategy, SSHRC, Fellow, Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University, and Affiliate at the Centre for Human Right Research, University of Manitoba

For more information and for a link to the recording, please click [here](#).



## Lakehead Orillia Celebrates its Student Leaders with Awards, Pasta and Dancing!

On April 5, LUSU, the Office of the Principal, Student Success, and Dana Hospitality partnered to present the very first People's Pasta event on campus.

The afternoon event featured the Lakehead Leaders' Awards Ceremony, a performance by the Lakehead Dance Team, and a free pasta lunch prepared by the Principal's Office team and the LUSU Vice President Orillia. The day celebrated the amazing achievements of Lakehead's student leaders who demonstrate the principles of Lakehead University's motto: Achievement Through Effort. As our campus community continues to grow and thrive, we celebrate our leaders and this community as a whole.





## Lakehead International Launches New Global Mobility Engagement Website

Lakehead International's Global Engagement department is thrilled to announce the launch of the new website for the Global ME (Mobility Engagement) Program.

Whether you are a student seeking to expand your horizons and gain a global perspective, or a faculty member looking to engage in international opportunities, this page has something for everyone. With the launch of this new website, we aim to strengthen Lakehead's commitment to internationalization further and highlight accessible and diverse global learning initiatives for our students, staff, and faculty.

The Global ME (Mobility Engagement) Program offers a range of dynamic opportunities to study in different parts of the world, meet new people, and learn about different cultures. This website serves as the starting point for students interested in studying abroad, or for inbound exchange students who are preparing for their journey to Lakehead. On the website, you will find detailed information about the application process, eligibility requirements, and deadlines, making it easier for students to plan for their international experience.

It will also showcase previous students' experiences, including photos and testimonials, to give prospective students a glimpse into what their own Global ME experience could be like. Additionally, the website will highlight Lakehead University's partner institutions around the world, allowing students to explore their options and find the program that best suits their unique interests and academic goals. By launching this website, we aim to make study abroad more accessible and empower students to engage in life-changing experiences that will benefit them personally and professionally for years to come.

Ready to start your journey? [Visit the Global ME \(Mobility Engagement\) website today.](#)





## **Lakehead Orillia Hosts Local Event to Inspire High Future Scientist**

Lakehead Orillia hosted Gairdner Day on March 27, a unique opportunity for high school students to learn about potential careers in science. The event was funded through the Gairdner Foundation, which promotes and rewards scientific excellence in human health; this year marks the first time the event has come to Lakehead's Orillia campus.

Students in grades 9 to 12 from across Simcoe County worked in groups to solve fun challenges that apply their knowledge of science and engineering in creative ways. They also heard about the science and the ethical issues around using human stem cells and gene editing to cure disease, delivered by Dr. Janet Rossant, Chief of Research Emeritus and Senior Scientist at SickKids, and President and Scientific Director, Gairdner Foundation.

Gairdner Day Orillia is a joint venture with the Gairdner Foundation and Lakehead University's Office of Research Services and the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies.

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

## **Mitacs Globalink Research Interns at Lakehead University this Summer**

Lakehead will be hosting 23 Mitacs Globalink Research Interns in Summer 2023, from India (17), France (2), and Colombia, Mexico, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom (1 each). Interns will begin arriving in May for their 12-week programs, with five going to Orillia (including two at the Barrie campus), with the rest coming to Thunder Bay. Sixteen faculty members will be hosting the undergraduate interns, who will work on a variety of research projects from Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, and Chemical Engineering, to Biology, Chemistry, Natural Resources, and Law.



## C2U Expo

*Connected Communities Collective Change* is the theme of the [2023 Community-College-University Exposition](#) (C2U Expo), June 5-8, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. C2U Expo is being led and organized by Lakehead University's Office of Research Services. C2U Expo is Canada's leading conference on community-based research and community-campus engagement. It will be a conference that explores the edge of community-college-university partnerships as catalysts for social innovation.

We are expecting 400 delegates and some as far away as Australia, Italy, India, South Africa, and Europe. Research Services received an overwhelming response to the call for presentations with over 150 abstracts received.

An exciting line-up of plenary speakers includes acclaimed academic and community practitioners, namely: Prof Maui Hudson, Director, Te Kotahi Research Institute at the University of Waikato and co-author CARE Principles, Dr. Eve Tuck, Associate Professor of Critical Race and Indigenous Studies at the University of Toronto, Liz Weaver, Co-CEO of the Tamarack Institute, and Norbert Steinhaus, Coordinator and International Contact of Living Knowledge, Science Shop Network.

Pre-conference workshops feature: *Building Sustainable and Resilient Collaborations* and will highlight sustainability factors for collaborative processes with Liz Weaver. *Fundamentals of Community-based Research with CBRCanada* will explore how research can be an intervention towards positive change in society to contribute to transformative social change. Carleton University's interactive workshop, *Big Ship, Open Waters - Strategic Planning for Community Engagement* will explore the 'backstage' of strategic planning to support community engagement.

For more information, please visit [C2U Expo website](#).

## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development

Lakehead University is excited to announce the launch of a new Intellectual Property Law Clinic, offering free legal services around intellectual property for students and entrepreneurs. This clinic will be offered once per month starting in the fall, running through Ingenuity, Lakehead's business incubator, located in CASES, in partnership with the Faculty of Law. This one-year clinic will have legal services provided by current Lakehead law students, with a supervising lawyer, Mike Strickland from Buset LLP overseeing the student's work. For more information about this IP Law Clinic, please contact Ellen MacKay, Director, Innovation Development in the *Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development*.