

**REPORT TO THE LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY SENATE
FROM
OGIMAAWIN ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL, LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**

Submitted Wednesday, March 7, 2012, for Senate meeting scheduled Friday, March 16, 2012.

**Reporting on Ogimaawin business from November 2011 to February 2012
Next Ogimaawin meeting scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2012**

Ogimaawin meeting November 21, 2011

Canada Research Chair Selection Process

Dr. Scott Hamilton explained the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) program. CRC funds are fundamental to research. The call for potential applicants for CRC Chairs comes from the President's Office. Following a process of selection, a recommendation is made to Ottawa. The peer committee in Ottawa examines the university's profile, the researcher, and the strategic plan of the university to determine that the research priorities of the institution are aligned with the proposed research. Dr. Hamilton asked if there were any areas O-AGC would want to move forward. It was noted that there is a need for Métis studies in northwestern Ontario and water research as it relates to northern resource development.

Aboriginal Student Success Study Proposed

The Ogimaawin heard a presentation by Dr. Rupert Klein who is interested in investigating retention of Aboriginal students. Dr. Rupert Klein would like to do the analysis on why the aboriginal students stay at Lakehead University and why they leave. He requested Ogimaawin approval to proceed in principle.

New Research Ethics Representative Welcomed

The Ogimaawin welcomed Dr. Chris Mushquash as the Ogimaawin representative on the Research Ethics Board. Dr. Mushquash is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. Ogimaawin is pleased to welcome him.

Ogimaawin meeting January 23, 2012

New LUNSA Officers Welcomed

The Ogimaawin welcomed the two new members, Mr. Timothy Michano and Ms. Nicole McKay, the Lakehead University Native Students Association (LUNSA) President and Vice-President, respectively. Both are students in the Political Science program at Lakehead University.

Ogimaawin Support of First Nations Governance Proposed

Dr. Hamilton distributed a letter noting that private and government sectors seem to be failing in duty to consult, particularly mining companies. Dr. Hamilton suggested the Ogimaawin provide some direction.

The discussion resulted in a list of some ideas about how to proceed from here. These included:

- Providing a workshop on duty to consult
- Developing training modules (as a certificate program) to include world views on duty to consult, history, treaties, and best practices.
- Looking at working on a focus for best practice of community engagement – inviting representatives from communities, government, youth, etc. to speak in a neutral environment.
- Prepare a toolkit that could be posted to the Aboriginal Initiatives' website and link to Office of Research Services.

An Ogimaawin Ad Hoc Committee was assembled. That committee will meet to discuss and identify options related to Lakehead University's involvement in training and education related to Duty to Consult in the Ring of Fire Communities.

LUNSA Support and Ogimaawin Approval in Principle of Success Study

Dr. Klein's request for Ogimaawin approval in principle to proceed with the Aboriginal Student Success Study was granted. Ms. McKay noted that LUNSA had read with interest about Dr. Klein's plans for the study. LUNSA wished to go on record as supporting this research effort and has offered to collaborate with Dr. Klein.

Aboriginal Research Day, February 13, 2012

Aboriginal Professors Chris Mushquash and Sandra Wolf presented research and research perspectives during an open forum on "What is Indigenous about Indigenous Research?" Other research during the day focused on issues of the far north regarding climate change, Aboriginal perspectives on the Fur Trade in the 18th century, and the social factors affecting Aboriginal persons with diabetes.

The Aboriginal Partnership Research Award for 2012 took place on February 16th. Recipients included:

Dr. Peggy Smith, Faculty of Natural Resources Management
Denise Golden, PhD student, Faculty of Natural Resources Management
Carol Audet, Policy Advisor for the Office of the Grand Chief (NAN)
David Fletcher, Executive Director for the Office of the Grand Chief (NAN)

Ogimaawin meeting February 27, 2012

Aboriginal Voting Patterns Explored

Ms. Judi Nelson Childs presented a report on the October 12, 2011, Ayaminaaniwan, Having a Voice Roundtable. Co-sponsored by Lakehead University and the Ontario Native Women's Association, this interactive forum was held to explore mainstream voting patterns of Aboriginal people in Thunder Bay. The forum resulted in a number of recommendations going forward, including a focus on Aboriginal Youth and the potential for early experience in various governance activities to result in later positive involvement in municipal, provincial and federal politics.

Academic/Action Plans Presented

Dr. Moira McPherson briefly discussed the action planning that is currently available for review. She noted with appreciation the work toward the completion of that document that Ogimaawin, Aboriginal Initiates, and the Department of Aboriginal Education had contributed, particularly in respect to the focus on social justice in the draft plan.

Recognizing that it is the work of Senate to approve the plan, Ogimaawin voted to support in principle the Lakehead University 2012 – 2017 Academic Plan.

LUNSA Pow Wow Scheduled

The annual Lakehead University Native Student Association Pow Wow is scheduled for March 16th to March 18th in the Lakehead University Field House. The host and co-host drums are from Thunder Bay. The Little Eagle Drummers who honoured us with their songs at the recent special convocation for Dr. Phil Fontaine will be drumming, as well. The Pow Wow is sponsored by Aboriginal Initiatives and the Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU).

Submitted March 7, 2012

Sandra Wolf, Ph. D

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