

**REPORT TO THE LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY SENATE
FROM**

OGIMAAWIN ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL, LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Next Ogimaawin meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 15th, 2012 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, in ATAC 5035

Métis Research Rendezvous held Tuesday, April 17, 2012 Successful

Co-sponsored by LU Aboriginal Initiatives, the LU Office of Research Services, and the Métis Nation of Ontario, the day-long research forum brought to light an array of possibilities for collaborative research. Morning sessions focused on welcoming and information sharing by representatives of the three agencies. The fifty individuals present also introduced themselves and described the context in which they have been conducting, or are interested in conducting, research with Métis communities.

Afternoon sessions included focused group/break-out sessions during which participants brainstormed ideas for advancing research with Métis communities in a particular area. I participated the explorations of the intersections between research and education, which was productive. The late afternoon panel presentation by three well-known Métis scholars featured discussions of sovereignty, historical research, and on-going legal matters to an audience of about 75 faculty, students, and members of the Métis community locally and regionally. The day ended with a reception and networking among participants. Reports of scholarly projects focusing on Métis communities explored novel and rich community-grounded research efforts. Overall, the event was well-organized and productive. Migwech to Annette Schroeter, Office of Research Services, and Dr. Chris Paci, Métis Nation of Ontario, for their efforts in organizing the gathering.

Update on Opportunities for Research with University of Waikato, in New Zealand

Dr. John Hodson met with representatives of the University of Waikato over the weekend of April 14th in Vancouver. The discussion focused on ways that Indigenous pedagogy can be articulated and infused not only into instruction for Indigenous students, but for all students in institutions (K – 12 and higher education) located in Indigenous traditional territory.

Dr. Hodson has submitted a Letter of Intent for a SSHRC Insight Connection Partnership Grant. A series of three research questions will guide research activities, including exploration of the effectiveness of professional development activities for participating teachers, including the impact on academic achievement of Aboriginal secondary students, as well as impacts on the sense of self of Aboriginal students as they are mentored to become leaders. Faculty members from Lakehead University, Brock University, and the University of Waikato will be involved in the research. Teachers, administrators, and students in the Keewaytin- Patricia District schools in the Kenora area will also be involved.

This proposed research is supported and supports the recently signed Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Waikato. Further, this research effort will be supportive of the President's Access Bursary.

Indigenous Governance Relationships May Need Re-visiting

For all Aboriginal students attending Lakehead University, there is an Aboriginal governance structure outside of Lakehead University supporting that students, whether Métis, First Nations, or Inuit. For Métis students, that governance/leadership structure is likely the Métis

Nation of Ontario. For First Nations students, there is a band governance structure that includes leaders at several levels, with a band chief in charge, in a general sense. We have students, as well as employees, from Moose Cree First Nations on campus.

I was able to travel with colleagues from Confederation College to Moose Factory to attend the funeral of the Chief of Moose Cree First Nation. My colleagues and I were warmly welcomed and treated well. I was asked to speak at a community gathering the evening before the funeral, and I did. Lakehead University was represented in a good and lasting way.

I'm confident that in the coming years as we move to implement the new academic plan, we can consider expanding our definitions of "connection" beyond the customary academic boundaries. Three of our stated goals in the Academic Plan would support such action, including:

- Extend community engagement and outreach
- Strengthen our commitment to social justice
- Enhance our support of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students

However, we have also agreed to "increase faculty, staff, and students' awareness and appreciation of Indigenous knowledge and Aboriginal realities." This is Strategy 2 in Section III, Social Justice, and we are beginning that this afternoon, as we speak. So, let's consider this a good start. Migwech, thank you.

Much Appreciation to Beverly Sabourin, Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives)

Ogimaawin and other University organizations will be expressing appreciation to Beverly Sabourin over the next several months. Beverly has been a tireless advocate and we will all miss her as she begins her retirement.

Submitted Wednesday, May 9, 2012, for Senate gathering Friday, May 18, 2012

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