

**Report to Senate Research Committee  
Associate Vice President (Research, Economic Development & Innovation)  
Review of 2011 Annual Reports Submitted by  
Lakehead University Research Centres and Institutes  
April 25, 2012**

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The Office of the Associate Vice President (REDI) has completed the review of the 2011 Annual Reports submitted by the Lakehead University Research Centres and Institutes. A copy of the annual report for each Centre/Institute is maintained on file in our office.

On a positive note, it is a pleasure to report that most of the Centres/Institutes annual reports were very well presented and contained the majority of information requested. Overall, Centres/Institutes are accomplishing their respective research objectives and related activities. However, our comments and suggestions for additional details and/or improvements to the reports are summarized below:

**Advanced Institute for Globalization and Culture (aig+c):**

- While the majority of the report is well presented, there is cause for concern regarding the aig+c's inability to secure further funding to ensure the sustainability of the Institute. It is apparent that a majority of the Institute's ongoing projects are due for completion by the end of the reporting year 2010-2011. Also apparent is the fact that there is no mention of any new projects the Institute will be undertaking in the future.
- The report clearly indicates that the present Director is only willing to carry this position for one year ending on June 30, 2012. It would be desirable to know the steps taken for the succession of the Director.

**Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH):**

- The CERAH consulting model is innovative to generate funding resources for the general upkeep of the Centre. It would be desirable if CERAH also consider changes for various resources, which are routinely utilized in the successful completion of a particular project or contract.
- CERAH has expressed concern regarding their non-existent operating budget and the negative impact this has on future planning for staff and other resources.

**Centre for Research on Safe Driving:**

- There is a need to include a brief description on the progress made on the CRSD's original 5 year plan submitted when the CRSD was first created.

**Centre for Northern Studies:**

- Efforts are underway to alleviate the Centre's storage and office space issue. We have been working diligently with those individuals responsible for assigning space at the University and hope a positive decision will be made soon.
- a request for Director's compensation was made; we are unable to fulfill this request at this time.

### **Centre for Tourism and Community Development Research:**

- We were disappointed to learn that the CTCDR will cease operations as of December 1, 2011. The CNS was due for review this year and as a result, the internal review process has been discontinued.
- The operations of CTCDR were extended until the end of 2011 to complete reports on some projects. Thus, the CTCDR ceased to exist as of December 31, 2011.

### **Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs:**

- After careful review of this Centre's report, it is worthwhile to note that it was very well presented and addressed all of the necessary elements. This is a national level research Centre as reflected by its national level report.

### **Lakehead Social History Institute:**

- The Institute has put in a request for additional space for equipment; however, we are unable to fulfill this request at this time

### **Lakehead University Centre for Health Care Ethics:**

- After careful review of the Centre's report, we would like to state that the report was very well presented.
- The CHCE is currently undergoing an Internal Review which is expected to be completed by May 15, 2012.

### **Biorefining Research Institute:**

- The vision of the Biorefining Research Institute (BRI) is not limited to fuels and forest biomass, but also considers the economic benefits derived from the forest ecosystem. Specifically, BRI focuses on three major components of biorefining:
  - Bioconversion: enzymatic hydrolysis of cellulose to glucose and its fermentation to bioproducts including biofuels, green chemicals (plastics),
  - Chemicals from Forest Biomass: phytochemical extractions from foliage and bark residues
  - Forest Ecosystems: high-valued products including enzymes for use in cellulose hydrolysis, and microbial agents to remediate forest industry wastes.
- The BRI labs were officially opened on December 4, 2009
- Grants totaling \$1.55 million were awarded to the BRI during 2009-2011.
- The BRI labs have accommodated undergraduate and post-graduate students from Lakehead Faculties, as well as post-doctoral Research Fellows and Visiting Research Scholars/Scientists from abroad (Brazil, Belarus, Chile, China, Hungary, India, Italy, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Turkey. Visiting Scholars brought stipends valued at >\$200,000 funded by the national research councils of each of their countries.
- The Lakehead University Senate approved a proposal from the Biorefining Research Initiative on December 7, 2011 to formalize operations to that of a true Biorefining Research Institute (BRI) towards enhancing biorefining research at Lakehead University.