

**March
2020**



President's Report to Senate



Office of the President

Province of Ontario's 2020 Pre-Budget Consultation

On January 21, Lakehead University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson, and Strategic Advisor Dr. Heather Murchison, participated in the Ontario government's 2020 pre-budget consultation, an opportunity for organizations to provide input on how the Province should allocate public funds in the next fiscal year.

To begin her presentation, Dr. McPherson shared with the Province's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs (comprised of representatives of the Province's official political parties) information highlights about Lakehead University.

The President requested that the members recommend to the Minister of Finance that the Government supports our Gichi Kendaasiwin project and prioritizes it through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Community, Culture and Recreation stream. Dr. McPherson provided the core project objectives. She highlighted that the successful realization of this project will impact over 230,000 residents across a half million square kilometres of land by creating a central and cultural community hub to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and advance reconciliation to support improved social and economic outcomes in our region.



Opening Ceremonies for Research & Innovation Week with the Governor General of Canada

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation was delighted to announce Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada would be the keynote speaker for the Opening Ceremonies to celebrate Lakehead University's 15th annual Research & Innovation Week..

Before becoming Governor General, Julie was an astronaut, engineer, scientific broadcaster and corporate director. From 1992 to 2013, she worked as an astronaut and flew two missions in space. Julie also served many years as CAPCOM (Capsule Communicator) at NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas, and was Chief Astronaut for the Canadian Space Agency.



***Disrupt It* challenge helps City of Thunder Bay**

Lakehead's *Disrupt It* weekend brings together bright, passionate, entrepreneurial-minded individuals to launch an idea in 54 hours.

This year's event was held in Lakehead's business incubator, *Ingenuity*, and the theme was "Generate Ideas that Re-Imagine your City". It included 52 participants who gave 22 pitches on the first night that became 9 teams working the entire weekend to form their businesses and hone their pitch.

The event brought out 24 mentors throughout the weekend, and even had the youngest participant to date, at 13 years old. The weekend kicked off with engaging keynote speakers from Wake the Giant, followed by individuals pitching their ideas, and cross-functional teams forming in order to develop the idea and validate a business model. The weekend concluded with teams presenting their final pitch to a panel of judges and competing for the grand prize!

Grand Prize Winner: Build The Bay - Aiming to reduce financial barriers to real estate ownership

CEDC's Smart City Award: Willconnect - A volunteer management incentive system

People's Choice: 180 Development Group - Revitalizing vacant spaces and beautification projects



Federal Government Meetings

On February 5, I was joined by Lakehead's Vice-President (Research and Innovation), Dr. Andrew Dean, and our Director of Government Relations, Richard Longtin, in Ottawa to meet with several individuals and agencies of the Government of Canada.

The first set of meetings occurred with executive members of the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). These meetings allowed us to highlight our research and innovation strength and to discuss possible areas of collaboration. The trip also afforded us the opportunity to meet with Philip Jennings, our University Champion who now occupies the role of Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, Plans and Consultations. Finally, we were able to meet with MP Marcus Powlowski to discuss our Gichi Kendaasiwin application. Concluding the day, we were pleased to host an Alumni reception at the Chateau Laurier with key Ottawa alumni and special guests, including Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, where we shared recent Lakehead achievements.

Lakehead commended for Canada Research Chair equity

The Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation is pleased to report that the CRC Secretariat has commended Lakehead University's efforts to create more diversity within the CRC program. As a result, Lakehead's CRC equity targets were met by the December 2019 deadline. This allows Lakehead University the privilege of continuing to participate fully in the CRC program.

Capacity Development

Ontario Northland extends service to Thunder Bay and Lakehead University

On February 12, the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, announced that Ontario Northland will extend its bus service to Thunder Bay beginning April 2020. The new route will connect communities, passengers, and students in Northwestern Ontario by providing seamless service from Thunder Bay to Eastern Ontario, including Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, Toronto and Ottawa. Ontario Northland's motor coach service will operate six days a week and will have stops including Lakehead University and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

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





Academic Excellence

Lakehead's new Fulbright Canada Research Chair

Dr. Nancy Langston is Distinguished Professor of Environmental History at Michigan Technological University. She will serve as Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Interdisciplinary Sustainability Solutions at Lakehead University. Her most recent book, *Sustaining Lake Superior* (Yale University Press, 2017), examines the environmental history of climate change, industrial development, and toxics in the Lake Superior basin. Since July 2013, Dr. Langston has been a professor at Michigan Technological University. During 2012-2013, she was the King Carl XVI Gustaf Professor of Environmental Science at Umeå University in Sweden. She served as professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 17 years.



She has written four books, 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, and popular journalism. Former President of the American Society for Environmental History, Dr. Langston has raised over \$750,000 in competitive external funding, and she has won awards from the Marshall Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the American Society for Environmental History, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Council for Learned Societies.

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



Lakehead University researchers receiving more than \$140k from CFI

On February 20, two Lakehead researchers received grants from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) valued at more than \$140,000 in total.

Dr. Maryam Ebrahimi, a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Low-dimensional Nanomaterials, is receiving \$125,000 to purchase a scanning tunneling microscope, which allows the imaging of molecules and their reactions at nanoscale resolution, for making low-dimensional nanomaterials.

Dr. Michel Bedard, Director of Lakehead's Centre for Research on Safe Driving, received \$15,707 to contribute to reducing traffic-related injuries by conducting basic and applied research on processes that support safe driving, and developing interventions that promote road safety.

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



Business Administration team places 2nd in ACHIEVE competition

Four students from Lakehead University Thunder Bay earned second place in a competition held during the ACHIEVE conference in Toronto from Jan. 31 - Feb. 1. The team included **Bonnie Donaghy, Mitchell Argue, Adam Kok, and Laura Siegers**.

ACHIEVE is Canada's premier undergraduate accounting conference, hosted by the Ted Rogers School of Management. This year's case competition dealt with Technology, Automation and Innovation.

Sixteen teams from across Canada participated in the two-day conference at the Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel in Toronto, which included an accounting-based case competition, guest speakers, and networking events.

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



Bora Laskin Faculty of Law students win moot competition against other Ontario law schools

For the second year in a row, a team from Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law placed first at the Arnup Cup moot, a mock trial where the team argued a fictitious case.

Justin Blanco and **Justis Danto-Clancy** won the Arnup Cup on February 8 in Toronto after successfully defending their fictional client, bar owner Carl Benoit, charged with causing an indignity to a body and first-degree murder. Benoit pleaded guilty to the first charge and not guilty to the second.

The pair began preparing in mid-December, combing through witness statements, police and forensic reports, and other documents relating to the mock case. They read the materials over Christmas and met with their coaches in early January. Both teams also worked closely with coaches **Marco Frangione** and **Amanda Gallo**, who was part of the winning team from last year.

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





Local and Global Partnerships

Internationalizing our campus community

On February 12, Katie Fraser, International Engagement Specialist, met with over 40 members of the Orillia Business Women's Association. Fraser provided OBWA members with an overview of Lakehead University International, spoke to the specialized support services offered to International students on the Orillia Campus and study abroad opportunities, and provided an overview of how OBWA members can get involved with internationalizing the Orillia Campus and community.



Making a difference – ITSTARTS Campaign

Lakehead Orillia HBSW students Jessica Dinner and Samantha Long recently participated in the County of Simcoe's ambassador training for the upcoming #ITSTARTS public education campaign. Jessica and Samantha will be among the students at Lakehead Orillia spreading positive messages of diversity and inclusion on and off-campus throughout March.

Simcoe County Alumni host game night with the Barrie Colts

On Jan. 22, the Simcoe County Alumni Chapter and the Lakehead University Student Alumni Association held the Lakehead Night at the Barrie Colts. Over 150 students and alumni were in attendance, making it one of the most successful Colts nights.





Third Age Learning finishes up another successful winter series

Third Age Learning Lakehead has just finished up another successful lecture series, "Religion in the 21st Century?", with over 350 people in attendance. Highlights included Canada Research Chair (Religious Diversity and Social Change, University of Ottawa) Dr. Lori Beaman's talk, "A Changing Landscape: The Impact of Canada's New Religious Diversity," and the Director of the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security, and Society (University of Waterloo), Dr. Lorne Dawson's talk on "Becoming a Religious Terrorist in Canada: Who, How, and Why?"

Over 50 participants will take part in a bus tour to three religious sites in the GTA on February 26, and TALL is busy planning our next series for May and June: "How Music Changes the World".

CELL partnerships create new learning opportunities for community

The Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) has partnered with the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network to host the family level certification of its program over Winter Study Week. As part of this partnership, six Lakehead faculty and students, one from Thunder Bay, will take part in the program free of charge.

It is an excellent professional development opportunity for all involved. CELL has also partnered with the City of Orillia, the County of Simcoe, the Community Development Corporation and others to host Artpreneur, a program enabling local artists to learn about entrepreneurship. Sixteen students participated in the program, and six of these pitched concepts at the Artpreneur Expo on Feb. 6 at the Orillia Opera House.

Lakehead University opens new Career Zone

On January 29, Lakehead University held a ribbon cutting to open the new *Career Zone*., a new space on our Thunder Bay campus that will offer a variety of supports and services such as resume review, interview and job searching skill development, and an alumni mentorship program.

Staff from the *Career Zone* office will also organize networking events such as the four annual career fairs, career exploration resources, and a variety of skill building workshops.

