



November 2019

# President's Report to Senate







## Office of the President

### Director of Security Services receives a commendation

**Lorne Clifford, Director of Security Services** at Lakehead University, has received a commendation from the Ministry of Veterans Affairs. The award was presented to him on behalf of the Minister of Veterans Affairs by **The Honourable Patty Hajdu**.

Now a Lieutenant (Navy) with the local Cadet Corps after a distinguished career with the Canadian Armed Forces and as a senior police commander, Lorne continues to be engaged in veterans' issues, both personally and as a member of the local Royal Canadian Legion.

Lorne arranges for veterans to come speak to his cadet unit regularly and has them participate as reviewing officers during parades. He also engages his cadets to volunteer during Veterans' Week and the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign. Lorne is a gifted speaker who spoke in front of 5,000 people for the Thunder Bay Remembrance Day ceremony in 2013, bringing his perspective on the modern-day peacekeeping veteran. He has given dozens of presentations and he continues to speak to local community groups on the role of Canadian peacekeepers.

[Click more here...](#)



### Deputation to Thunder Bay City Council

On September 16, President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson and members of the Executive Team made a deputation to Thunder Bay City Council to share Lakehead University's achievements over the past year.

Presentation highlights included an explanation on the numerous ways in which Lakehead contributes to the socio-economic prosperity of the city, informing Council of the launch of our latest Strategic Plan, Academic Plan, and new Research Plan.

Following the presentation, many Councillors asked questions before acknowledging the impact our University has on various facets of the city and region.



## Orange Shirt Day at Lakehead University

On September 30, our Lakehead University community participated in Canada's Orange Shirt Day, an annual event that began in 2013, after residential school survivor Phyllis Jack Webstad discussed her experience when she arrived at a residential school as a child. September 30 was chosen for the annual event because it is the time of year in which Indigenous children were historically taken from their homes to residential schools.

For many years, Lakehead University's commitment to our Indigenous learners and communities has been enshrined in our institution's Strategic Plans and Academic Plans; and the work of many, including our Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and Chair on Truth and Reconciliation, remain strong. Governments, communities, and each of us, have a responsibility to make reconciliation a part of our lives, going forward — in our places of work, in our homes, and in our communities.

## 2019 Canada-Mexico Round Table

From October 5-6, Nipissing University hosted the 8th Annual Canada-Mexico Roundtable at Algoma University. The fifth installation of the National Building Reconciliation Forum highlighted the work of institutions from across the country.

Representatives from across Lakehead University's two campuses participated in this year's roundtable. In addition to Lakehead's President and Interim Provost, our University delegation included our Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives), Denise Baxter; Coordinator of Indigenous Outreach/Recruitment, Anna Chief; Chair, Education Programs (Orillia) and Associate Professor, Dr. Michael Hoechsman; and five of our Indigenous students.







### COU head visits Lakehead University

On October 3-4, **Council of Ontario Universities President & CEO, David Lindsay**, came to Lakehead University Thunder Bay to share his wisdom and experience with our Board of Governors during its annual retreat.

During his visit to our campus, Mr. Lindsay also had the opportunity to attend the opening event for our new Alumni House, as well as to tour our CASES building and labs, Lakehead International's offices, Aboriginal and Cultural Support Services's new space, Student Central, our new Outdoor Classroom, and the Fire-Testing Lab.

### Reconciliation Forum in Sault Ste. Marie

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Universities Canada Building Reconciliation Forum at was hosted at Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie from October 8-10.

This year, the sold-out forum highlighted the work of institutions from across Canada under the theme, "Working Together to Advance Healing and Reconciliation". Activities included tours, speakers, and workshops, including one hosted by our Vice-Provost, Aboriginal Initiatives, Denise Baxter, and Lakehead's Provost & Vice-President (Academic), Dr. David Barnett.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Building Reconciliation Forum

The region, known as the "Heart of the Great Lakes", has long served as a traditional gathering place of people from all different territories, tribes and cultures. The central building of Algoma University was once **Shingwauk Indian Residential School** and operated, as such, from 1873 to 1970. Today, the building is known as Algoma University's Shingwauk Hall, the only residential school in Canada to be transformed into a university.



## Homecoming 2019

Lakehead University hosted its annual Homecoming Weekends, October 3-5 (Thunder Bay) and Oct 18-19 (Orillia).

With more than 63,000 alum around the globe, Homecoming celebrated Lakehead University's past and present, bringing alumni home to engage with each other and participate in events.

The community was welcomed to attend events like the celebration of the new Alumni House, the Athletics Wall of Fame induction ceremony, and the Alumni Honours Dinner.

The Athletics Wall of Fame ceremony inducted teams, such as our 1969 basketball and 2001-2002 wrestling teams, male and female athletes, and builders such as Ron Lappage.

Ron started making his mark on the Lakehead Thunderwolves in 1972 when he joined Lakehead University as a Physical Education lecturer and as an assistant coach for the wrestling team. This year marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Varsity Wrestling Program at Lakehead. Dozens of former wrestlers and coaches traveled to the city to celebrate the programs legacy at various socials held throughout the weekend.



This year also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our 1969-70 Lakehead University NorWester's Men's Basketball Team. This team did so much to set the precedent of success for teams to come in the future, including having the best win-loss record in the history of Lakehead University with a 23-2 overall record playing against colleges in the United States.

The year Lakehead Orillia's annual Homecoming celebration hosted alumni activities taking place on and off campus. From sporting events to quiz night and the Principal's brunch, Homecoming offered something for everyone.







### Chamber of Commerce hosts NOSM Dean at Leaders Luncheon

On October 15, Thunder Bay's Chamber of Commerce hosted a Leaders Luncheon in Lakehead Thunder Bay's Faculty Lounge. Chamber members and the public were invited to meet and listen to keynote speaker **Dr. Sarita Verma, Dean, President and CEO** of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Dr. Verma's talk included sharing with everyone her vision of the future for NOSM .

### Canada's former Attorney-General is Harold G. Fox Distinguished Lecturer

On October 22, over 100 members of the public and our University community were at our Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's John A. Patterson Auditorium to listen to this year's Harold G. Fox Distinguished Lecturer, **Michael Bryant, Executive Director and General Counsel at Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA)** and his discussion, "In Your Face Tech: A Moratorium on Facial Recognition Surveillance in Canada".

During the event, Bryant called for a moratorium on facial recognition technology in the City of Thunder Bay, as well as the rest of Canada, arguing that such tools are inaccurate and unregulated as mechanisms for police investigations.



### County of Simcoe awards Lakehead University, staff, and students, at Newcomer Recognition Awards

On October 24, the County of Simcoe Newcomer Recognition Awards celebrated the contribution of immigrants living in Simcoe County and the organizations and businesses supporting enhanced opportunities for a growing and changing demography.

During the event, the County recognized Lakehead University with the *Multiculturalism through Education* award for the significant strides that have been taken as an institution.

Ms. Katie Fraser, Lakehead University International's Engagement Specialist, received the *Community Champion* award.

The following Lakehead students also received awards: Sarah Simpson, HBASc/BEd Interdisciplinary Studies/Education - Youth Community Champion Award; Leanne Wang, HBComm - Immigrant Youth Award; and Bolu Fabanwo - Immigrant Mentor Award.



## German partner institutions' students

This semester, Lakehead University welcomed 20 students from Germany who are taking a range of courses in Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Natural Resources Management, and the Humanities. Some of them were able to visit Dr. McPherson and share their impressions of life at Lakehead and their experiences exploring Thunder Bay and the surrounding area. The students come from over a dozen different German universities including Lakehead's seven German partner institutions.

## Academic Excellence

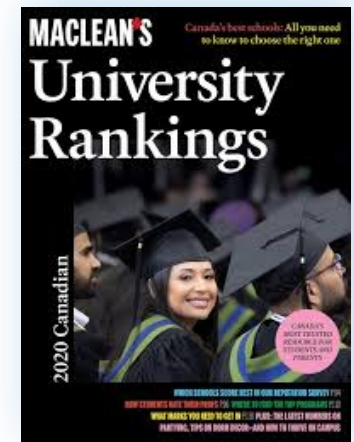
### ***Maclean's* ranks Lakehead among Canada's top primarily undergraduate universities**

On October 9, the 2020 *Maclean's University Rankings* announced that Lakehead University is, once again, included among Canada's top 10 primarily undergraduate universities.

While over 90 per cent of Lakehead's domestic undergraduate student population faces at least one barrier to postsecondary education, Lakehead University is second among Ontario universities in its category for academic supports for students, including scholarships, bursaries and experiential learning opportunities.

The rankings report that Lakehead University is second among Ontario universities in its category, has the seventh highest graduation rate among the province's 21 universities, and has the highest graduation rate among Ontario's primarily undergraduate universities. Lakehead also maintained its No. 2 standing among primarily undergraduate universities for student awards, citations (scholarly output), and total research dollars.

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







## In its first year, Joint Mobile Crisis Response Team proves its worth

*This story ran in the Chronicle-Journal on Oct. 1, 2019...*

A pilot project that brings together police, health-care workers and crisis support staff to deal with mental health issues in Thunder Bay is getting rave reviews from its partners, thanks in part to research undertaken by Lakehead University that has shown the benefits of the program as well as areas for improvement.

Lakehead University **associate professor Jo-Ann Vis** and **master's student Ashley Palmer** worked on an evaluation of the Joint Mobile Crisis Response Team program.

[Click here to read full story...](#)

## Social Responsibility

### Lakehead University launches first Sustainability Plan, opens outdoor classroom

On October 2, Lakehead University released its first Sustainability Plan in tandem with one of the Plan's first projects, an outdoor classroom and stormwater demonstration area.

The 2019-2024 Sustainability Plan demonstrates Lakehead's strong commitment to sustainability at both Lakehead Thunder Bay and Lakehead Orillia, and in the wider community.

At Lakehead University, sustainability is considered in an inclusive way, encompassing human and ecological health, social justice and equity, Indigenous rights, secure livelihoods, workplace well-being, and leadership for vibrant and resilient communities.

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



*Ledah McKellar, Lakehead's Sustainability Coordinator, speaks at launch event in outdoor classroom.*





## Local and Global Partnerships

### RBC Future Launch growing work-integrated learning at Lakehead University

On September 25, RBC Foundation pledged \$500,000 over five years in support of the RBC Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) Program at Lakehead University. This generous grant from RBC Future Launch will allow Lakehead to grow the two-year RBC Work-Integrated Learning Program pilot project launched at the university in 2017.

Originally open to 20 students annually, the RBC WIL program offers more opportunities for experiential learning, helping students to gain the skills necessary to successfully transition to a career. Over the next five years, Lakehead will expand the core program delivered in the pilot to 60 students annually who participate in a part-time work placement, workshop series, and mentorship and networking activities over a six-month period.

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

## Capacity Development

### New Alumni House location's ribbon-cutting

On October 3, Lakehead University held a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the grand opening of Alumni House in its new location at 1294 Balmoral Street in Thunder Bay. Alumni House is now more visible and more accessible to alumni, donors and supporters of Lakehead University.

The Alumni Association of Lakehead University has a long and proud tradition of supporting the institution, recognizing and celebrating the many distinguished Lakehead alumni with awards, and supporting current students through scholarships, bursaries, and mentoring. The creation of opportunities for engagement, such as Homecoming Weekend, are also among the Association's strongest ongoing activities.

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

