



**President's Report  
to Senate**

April  
2024





# Office of the President

## Updates on Presidential Initiatives and Activities

### Update on the Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program (CDVMP)

The CDVMP, a vital initiative addressing the shortage of veterinarians in Northern Ontario, is progressing well. To maintain our timeline, the University of Guelph will host the first cohort at their Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), leveraging their resources. Meanwhile, Lakehead University is focused on building necessary facilities in Thunder Bay to start the program there in Fall 2026. External factors prompted a slight adjustment in our timeline, necessitating additional funding due to inflation's impact on building costs. With funding secured, we're preparing for the Thunder Bay intake in 2026.

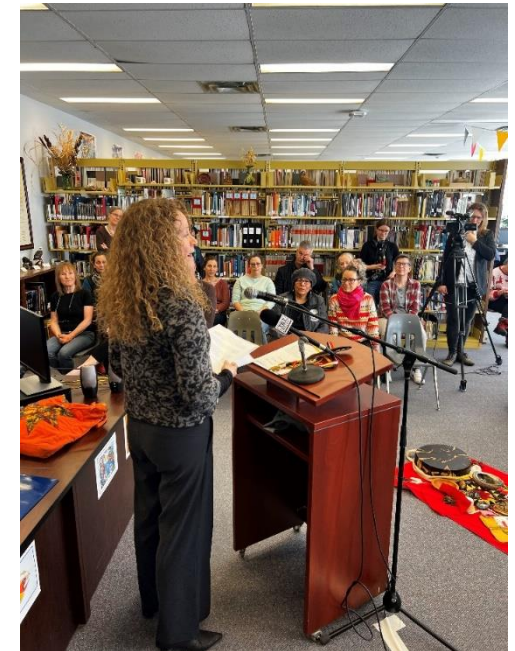
### Library unveils name of new Indigenous cultural and resource centre

Lakehead University conducted a naming ceremony for the new Indigenous resource centre in the Chancellor Paterson Library on Wednesday, March 27. In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, the former Northern Studies Resource Centre will be renamed to Nanda Gikendan Gamik (nan-da gi-kane-dan ga-mick). Seek to know, seek to learn place.

This name was gifted to the library by the Indigenous Elders Council and the library is extremely grateful for their kind and gracious input. The Resource Centre will be a place where Indigenous students will be welcomed and their heritage and culture will be deeply honoured and respected.

Lakehead University is committed to serving the region and has a large number of Indigenous students who chose to pursue their post-secondary education here. The university is committed to supporting all Indigenous students and Indigenous education.

[Click here to watch the TBTNews media release...](#)



## WUSC

Since 1999, Lakehead University students have actively welcomed refugee students to live and study at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay through a one-of-a-kind refugee resettlement program called WUSC; (World University Service of Canada). To date, our dedicated volunteers have helped change the lives of over 25 refugee students. Each year, newly arrived refugee students gain freedom and safety, access to education, 12 months of financial support, and a student-led network to help them adjust to campus life and get on their feet.

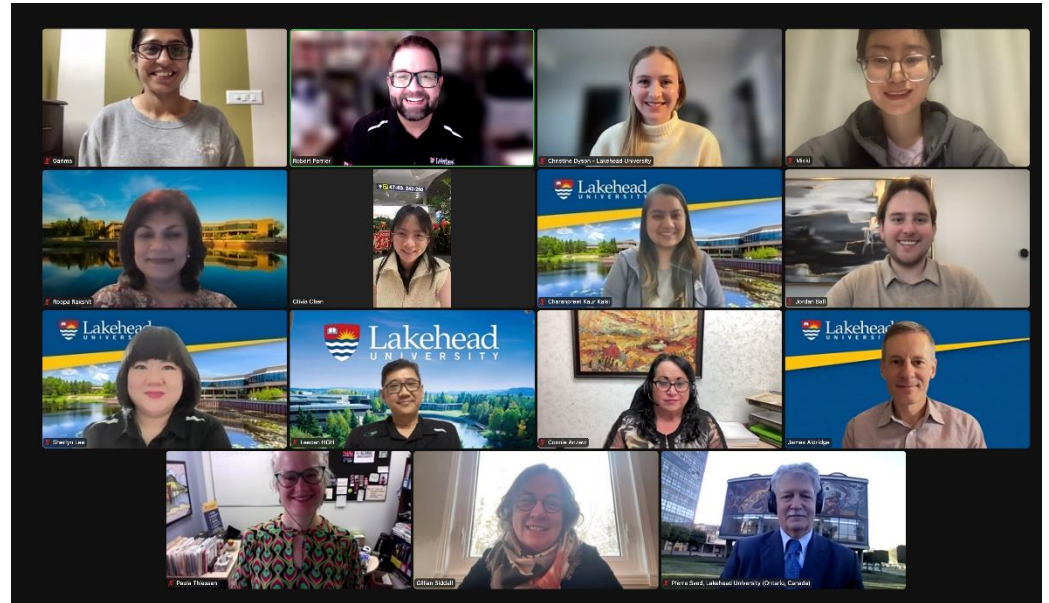


*From left to right: Reem Alfarwan, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice Chancellor, Marteena Aalhano, Feras Battah, Fatima Alatsha and Farhan Yousaf, LUSU Executive Director*



## Lakehead University International Enrolment team

President Siddall initiated a touchpoint meeting with Lakehead International's Enrollment team stationed in their home countries. The President provided feedback and reflections on the current state of affairs regarding changes with student visas in Canada.



*From left to right starting at the top: Garima Narang (India), Robert Perrier, Director, International Enrolment, Christine Dyson, International Recruitment Officer, Micki Li (China) Second Row: Roopa Rakshit, Manager, Agency Relations & Pathways, Olivia Chen (China), Charanpreet Kalsi (India), Jordan Ball, International New and Social Media Officer Third Row: Sherlyn Lee (Malaysia), Leecen Hoh (Malaysia), Connie Anzew, Administrative Assistant, International Enrolment, James Aldridge, Vice-Provost, International Bottom Row: Paula Thiessen, Manager, International Marketing & Communications, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice-Chancellor, Pierre Sved (Mexico)*



## Office of Indigenous Initiatives Update

The Indigenous Cultural Wellness Facilitator (Orillia) hosted a Tobacco Planting and Seed Sharing on Tuesday evenings and Anishinaabemowin Nutrition Bingos on Thursday evenings throughout the month of March.

Indigenous Initiatives also hosted weekly Tuesday gatherings for the Turtle Island Student Circle (TISC) throughout the month of March. This was an opportunity to support Indigenous students coming together and support the Indigenous Lakehead Orillia community with student-led programming. This was hosted by the Indigenous Initiatives Orillia's Graduate Assistant and Georgian College Placement Student.

**Denise Baxter**, the Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives, **Mercedes Jacko**, the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator and **Mike den Haan**, Vice-President External Relations met with Steve Mirkopolous on March 20 to discuss his donation to Indigenous Initiatives on the Orillia Campus and how this will impact Indigenous students in a good way.

## Career Services & Co-Op

In March, Career Services & Co-op hosted 9 events on the Orillia Campus and developed several new workshops in response to student interests, including a LinkedIn Profile workshop and an Accommodation in the Workplace workshop.



## Academic Excellence

### Dr. Ruth Beatty Receives Award for “Exceptional and Creative Teaching in Post-Secondary Mathematics Education”

**Dr. Ruth Beatty** (Associate Professor, Orillia) has been awarded the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education (OAME) 2024 award for Exceptional and Creative Teaching in Post-Secondary Mathematics. This award recognizes “a post-secondary educator who demonstrates excellence in mathematics education, contributes to the overall development of students, and demonstrates leadership in the mathematics education community” (OAME).

Ruth was nominated for the award by one of her longstanding research partners. The award nomination letter indicated that many of the projects that Ruth has collaboratively facilitated (including the *Connecting Indigenous Knowledge and Western Mathematical Ways of Knowing* research and resulting *First Nations and Métis Math Voices Project*, as well as the *Wiidookaadying Gikinoomaagewin: Gindaaswin Kendaaswin - Relationships & Reciprocity: Indigenous Mathematics Education Conference*) have been deeply influential and transformative on the practices of mathematics educators, schools, and boards of education:

Ruth will be formally recognized at the annual Ontario Association for Mathematics Education Conference, held in Kingston in May 2024. She will be further honoured in an article in the September *Gazette* (a publication of OAME), and on the OAME website.

Congratulations, Ruth!

[Click here to read the media release...](#)

[Click here to read the CBC press release...](#)







## Empowering Diversity in Outdoor Recreation at Lakehead University

**Aseel Hashim**, Master of Public Health candidate and graduate research assistant in the Department of Health Sciences, recently founded BIPOC Outdoor Adventures at Lakehead University with a generous \$5,500 grant from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation.

This innovative program aims to enhance accessibility to outdoor recreation for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) students, addressing a need identified through a class research project demonstrating systemic barriers faced by BIPOC students in accessing outdoor spaces and activities.

Her vision for the club is to foster community, break down systemic barriers, and create a space where every student feels empowered and welcomed to explore the outdoors.

The substantial funding from the Community Foundation will fuel the program's initiatives, allowing for excursions that promise unforgettable experiences and valuable opportunities for participants. Hashim says the program will also incorporate knowledge sharing to educate and prevent injuries in the outdoors.

Hashim would like to extend special thanks to **Dr. Rosenthal** and **Dr. Leigh Potvin** from ORPT, for their unwavering support and recognition of this initiative.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



## Over \$1.4M in funding awarded to Nipissing University professor for climate change research

A Nipissing University professor has received nearly \$1.5M in federal funding for climate change research. Partnering with the City of Greater Sudbury and Vale Base Metals, along with Drs. Pete Whittington (Brandon University), Ellie Goud (St. Mary's University), **Nathan Basiliko** (Lakehead University), John Gunn and Peter Beckett (Laurentian University), Dr. McCarter's research will examine how metal and sulfur pollution from historical mining activities in Northeastern Ontario has impacted carbon storage, greenhouse gas emissions, and soil and water quality in wetlands. A key goal is also to develop novel reclamation techniques to restore both the biodiversity and ecosystem services of severely polluted peatland wetlands.

[Click here to read the My West Nipissing Now press release...](#)



## Teacher Candidate Georgia Tocheri Wins Award for Demonstrated Excellence as a French Second Language Teacher

Congratulations to BEd teacher candidate **Georgia Tocheri** (Intermediate/Senior division), winner of the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association "Helen G. Mitchell Award."

This award honours one graduating student from each Faculty of Education in the province who best demonstrates the attributes of a potentially outstanding Classical/French as a Second Language/International language teacher.

Georgia was nominated by **James Steele**, Contract Lecturer (Faculty of Education) for her demonstrated excellence in the BEd program courses and practicums, and for applying effective second language methodologies that lead to success in the classroom.

Georgia, who graduates in June and is currently teaching in a Grade 3 French class, notes that "this award is very meaningful to me ... my mom and my previous French teachers used to attend the Ontario Modern Language Teachers' Association conferences. I am so excited to start my career as a French Teacher."

Congratulations, Georgia!







## Enactus Lakehead Brings Home Runner-Up at Regional Exposition

Enactus Lakehead represented Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus at the Enactus Canada Central Region Regional Exposition in Mississauga on March 7 and 8. A team from the Orillia campus also participated this year for the first time. Each year, Enactus Canada runs a series of regional and national expositions allowing teams to display their work from the past academic year. Enactus Lakehead was recognized as the runner-up in the TD-Entrepreneurship Challenge, an award last won by Enactus Lakehead in 2019.



This year, the team developed a new project called Brain Blitz, which focuses on educating high school and university students on the basics of entrepreneurship and soft skills through numerous activities such as speaker series, soft skills workshops, and hackathons. Enactus Lakehead would like to thank all the students who participated in these events and the faculty and staff who supported our activities! In total, since starting this project in June 2023, Enactus Lakehead impacted over 580 students. Thanks to many different sponsors, four different competitions were run. The team participated in the Desjardins Youth Empowerment Challenge, TD Entrepreneurship Challenge, and the Innovation and Impact Challenge Powered by Enactus Alumni. At the regional exposition, 29 teams competed for the title of regional champion in their given challenge.

Before the competition, our team ran a Pre-Regionals Community Showcase that was attended by numerous entrepreneurship mentors from across Thunder Bay. The showcase provided the team with valuable practice and feedback on their presentation. Thanks to all this practice, Enactus Lakehead was recognized as the Runner-Up in the TD-Entrepreneurship Challenge, an award not won by Enactus Lakehead since 2019. Morgan Gordon, the project manager of Brain Blitz, expressed, "it is amazing to be recognized for our hard work and dedication to serving the student community of Lakehead University." At the regional exposition, the team also had the opportunity to network with upwards of 1,400 other university students with the same goal.

The Thunder Bay Enactus team will be traveling to the Enactus Canada National Exposition in May to compete with the same project, with the goal of being crowned National Champion, and the honour of representing Canada in the World Cup! Enactus Lakehead would like to thank all the students, faculty, and staff who have volunteered numerous hours to advise and assist the team throughout all of its activities. Without the support of these individuals as well as our sponsors, inspirational trips like these would not be possible!



## Local and Global Partnerships

### Lakehead Orillia Celebrates Its Student Leaders with Awards, Pasta and Dancing!

On April 3, LUSU, Student Success and Dana Hospitality partnered to present another People's Pasta event on campus. The afternoon event featured the Lakehead Leaders' Awards Ceremony, a performance by the Lakehead Dance Team and a free pasta lunch prepared by Lakehead staff and LUSU volunteers. Co-hosted by LUSU VP **Brandon Rhéal Amyot** and Orillia Interim Principal **Dr. Linda Rodenburg**, the day celebrated the amazing achievements of 14 of Lakehead's student leaders who demonstrate principles of Lakehead University's motto: Achievement Through Effort, as well as the institution's mission, vision, and strategic academic plans. In addition, 4 students were also presented with a Luminary Award, which celebrates the significant contributions and impacts made to the betterment of our campus community and the community at large.







## Lakehead hosting World Water Day celebrations

Lakehead University joined the global community in raising awareness about the importance of fresh water on World Water Day.

The University hosted its inaugural World Water Day celebrations on Friday, March 22 in Thunder Bay, to focus on the importance of protecting and respecting water and to raise awareness of those living without access to safe water.

“Water or ‘nibi’ is not merely a resource; it is a basic necessity and has such profound importance for all of us,” says **Denise Baxter**, Vice Provost Indigenous Initiatives. “On World Water Day, we will explore the work being done to address some of the challenges related to access to clean, safe water, whether that’s through advocacy, research, policy development, and more. Without nibi there is no life.”

The World Water Day celebrations will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Agora with **Elder Sheila De Corte**. Students, employees and the Thunder Bay community are invited to hear teachings and stories from Elder De Corte about the Water Walkers.

Then, from 11:50 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., attendees heard from **Dr. Juan Guillermo Sánchez Martínez**, Associate Professor in the Department of Indigenous Learning; **Maya Oversby** and **Katie Freeman**, Master of Social Justice program students; and **Dr. Glenda Bonifacio**, Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities.

11:50 a.m., Dr. Juan Guillermo Sánchez Martínez recited his poem “Uranium/Uranio” (Cactus del Viento, 2023)

12:10 p.m., Maya Oversby and Katie Freeman discussed how past and potential future industry have impacted the water, land and people of the Northwest

12:25 p.m., Dr. Glenda Bonifacio discussed the intersections of gender with water and environmental militarism in island countries

The Lakehead University community is invited to attend and learn more about the collective responsibility of individuals, communities, governments, and organizations to ensure access to clean, safe water for generations to come.





## Office of International Engagement

During the week of March 18-22, Lakehead University Orillia championed the #ITSTARTS Campaign with the County of Simcoe. This campaign is a public awareness campaign designed to take a proactive step towards addressing racism and discrimination in Simcoe County. It works to promote a unified community that rages collective action against racism and discrimination. During this week, we celebrated diversity through virtual panels for Newcomers and Professionals in our TB and Orillia communities, we held our annual Welcome the World Fair during which staff, faculty, students, and members of the public "travelled" the world, sampling cultural foods, co-learning dances and games, and engaging in cultural arts. Indigenous Initiatives participated by hosting a Turtle Island information table. We also recognized 75 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, World Down Syndrome Day, and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through individual commitments to how and where #ITSTARTS, and the week culminated in a celebration of World Water Day through our Indigenous Initiatives Department.







On Tuesday, February 6, Nicky Locker, the International Engagement Specialist on the Orillia Campus, attended an event which welcomed the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Edith Dumont. She met with Inclusive Orillia, a team intent on service to the community in the area of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She discussed the important role this team will play to create a sense of belonging and work to address barriers alongside community partners. Lakehead University's Orillia Campus holds a seat on the leadership team of Inclusive Orillia.



*From left to right: Orillia Mayor, Don McIsaac, Lakehead University International Engagement Officer, Nicky Locker (Inclusive Orillia Board Member), Celeste Lalumiere (Board Secretary), Krystal Brooks (Board Member), The Honourable Edith Dumont, Wes Erskine (Board Co-Founder and Member), Stephen Davids (Board Co-Chair), and Rama First Nation Chief Ted Williams.*





## 34th Annual Powwow at Lakehead University March 8 to 10

The Indigenous Cultural Traditions Club (formerly the Lakehead University Native Student Association) is excited to host their 34th Annual Powwow at the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse, March 8-10, 2024.

ICTC is honoured to have Rolling Thunder as the Host Drum. Lakehead University students and the Thunder Bay community gathered together in celebration of Indigenous culture and dance.

Warm-ups were held on Friday, March 8 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Grand Entry was scheduled for 1 pm and 6 pm on Saturday, March 9 with a Traditional Feast being served at 5:00 pm and the powwow wrapped up for the day at 9:00 pm. Grand Entry were set for 12 pm on Sunday, March 10 with the powwow ending at 5 pm.



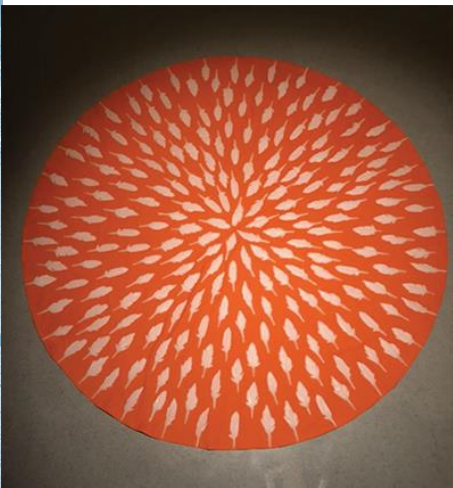
*Pictured from left to right, Denise Baxter, Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, Faraz Khorsandi, President LUSU, Bess Ann LeGarde, Councilor of Fort William First Nation, Jordan Thompson-Vankoughnett, President Indigenous Cultural Traditions Club, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice Chancellor and Mayor of Thunder Bay Ken Boshcoff*







## 39th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition



Everyone from the university community is invited to attend the opening night of two student art exhibitions at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The Department of Visual Arts will be hosting the 39th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition and the Honours Student Thesis Exhibition at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Friday April 5 from 7 to 9 pm with a brief awards ceremony taking place at 7:30 pm.

Fifty-four students will be participating, with artworks represented in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, digital art and Indigenous art practices. These highly anticipated student art exhibitions will also be celebrating a 39-year partnership and collaboration between The Art Gallery and Lakehead University's Department of Visual Arts.

The Juried Exhibition will be on display from March 15 to April 28 and the Honours Exhibition will run from March 22 through May 5. The exhibit is open to the public.

This exhibit is sponsored by the Lakehead University Alumni Association. The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is located at 1080 Keewatin Street, on the campus of Confederation College. Please visit the gallery website for more information about the exhibitions.

*From top left: Lux Favreau, Grapefruit Still-Life (2024), Alyssa Angus, 215 (2023)  
From top right: Jillian Jurimae, The Raven (2024); Marie Gauthier, Nature vs Concrete (2023)*





# Entrepreneurship and Innovation

## Research and Innovation Week: Orillia

During Research and Innovation Week in Orillia Lakehead members and guests had a number of events to attend, some of which include undergraduate, graduate and faculty posters, and Indigenous Market Place and career fair.

On March 6, Lakehead University Orillia campus hosted an Industry Panel sponsored by County of Simcoe, City of Barrie, City of Orillia and Georgian College to discover innovative strategies and practical applications as industry leaders share their expertise on leveraging AI for growth and efficiency.



[Click here to read the Orilla Matters press release...](#)

[Click here to read the Collingwood Today press release...](#)

## CIHR/ Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Research Facilitator

Lakehead University's Office of Research Services is pleased to welcome **Dr. Jocelyn Bel** as Lakehead's new CIHR/ Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Research Facilitator. Jocelyn has been at Lakehead for the past 13 years having completed her PhD in Medical Biotechnology in June 2022, her MSc in Biology in 2018, her MBA in 2016, and HBSc in Applied Bio-Molecular Science in 2015, all from Lakehead University. She has published her research in both Physiological Reports and Water, Air and Soil Pollution.



During her time at Lakehead, Jocelyn has been involved in many aspects of the university including the Senate Research Committee, Biosafety Committee, Student Union, Graduate Student Association, and Superior Science, to name a few. Most recently Jocelyn has been the Office's EDI Research Facilitator since July 2022 and has been available to assist researchers with their grant proposals, specifically with helping them develop EDI plans in accordance with the new funding guidelines. In her new enhanced role as the CIHR/EDI Research Facilitator, Jocelyn will work on reviewing and enhancing Lakehead's health-related research applications and while continuing to help faculty with their EDI strategies in their applications. Jocelyn will also continue to develop new EDI training programs, supporting the Canada Research Chair Program, as well as promoting and supporting EDI practices in the research enterprise. You can reach Jocelyn by email at [cihr.research@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:cihr.research@lakeheadu.ca) or at [edi.research@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:edi.research@lakeheadu.ca)





## ‘Research Matters’

Research Matter featured **Dr. Leila Pakzad** an Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Lakehead University. Dr. Pakzad is also a Lakehead University Research Chair in Respiratory Aerosol Dynamics with Applications to Pharmaceutical Drug Delivery. Joined with Dr. Pakzad were **Farnia Dastoorian** and **Taha Sadeghi** (Two PhD candidates in the Biotechnology Program).

Dr. Pakzad discussed how she is trying to understand the problems related to the low efficiency of respiratory drug delivery by looking at (1) the currently available inhaler devices that produce the drug particles/aerosols, (2) developing a CFD model that can be the best representative of the entire process by adding more features to the currently developed models. Such feature included adding the mucus layer to the model, considering the relative humidity and different ambient temperatures, or considering the movement of the tongue in the mouth or the throat during inhalation/exhalation, and so many other features currently ignored in such models.

[Click here to watch the video on YouTube...](#)

Research Matter featured **Dr. Aislin Mushquash** an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University. Dr. Mushquash is also a Clinical Psychologist with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care where she provides assessment, intervention, and consultation to support First Nations children, youth, adults, and families.

Joined Dr. Mushquash were graduate student(s) **Angela MacIsaac** (PhD) and **Angela Ashley** (Masters). She discussed two areas tied into stress and coping; first area is lab-based research, predictors of maladaptive coping; personality traits and how that shapes how people cope with stress. Second area: applied - implement studies in community based; Joy Pop studies.

[Click here to watch the video on YouTube...](#)



## Ontario invests in innovative research and capacity-building projects at Lakehead

Lakehead University researchers have received over \$2.1 million from the Government of Ontario to advance innovative research in mining and mental health. **Dr. Peter Hollings** and **Dr. Noah Phillips** from the Department of Geology are receiving \$2 million from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence program to develop new models that will enrich mineral exploration in Northern Ontario. Dr. Hollings is the NOHFC Industrial Research Chair in Mineral Exploration and Director of Lakehead’s Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration. Dr. Phillips is an Assistant Professor in Geology.



This research will study the geological processes leading to the formation of valuable mineral deposits in Northern Ontario. It will develop novel models for industry partners to seek new deposits that will be developed into mines. With this project the researchers are focusing on two themes – one is nickel-copper-platinum and the other is gold. The team will work on a range of sites where the researchers will develop models that can be applied to create more efficient exploration in Canada. This group of highly qualified people will include approximately 30 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.



Collaborators include Dr. Mike Hamilton, University of Toronto; Dr. Wouter Bleeker and Dr. Jennifer Smith, both from the Geological Survey of Canada; and Dr. Andreas Kronenberg from Texas A&M University. Kaitlin Richard from Science North is the youth outreach collaborator. Industrial collaborators include Goldshore Resources Inc., Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd., Romios Gold Resources Inc., Impala Canada Ltd., Generation Mining, Clean Air Metals Inc., and Enersoft Inc. **Dr. Aislin Mushquash**, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, is receiving an Early Researcher Award (ERA). This \$140,000 grant, supplemented by an additional \$50,000 from the University, will support research aimed at supporting youth mental health. The five-year ERA, designed to bolster research capacity among emerging scholars, will help Dr. Mushquash build a team of graduate and undergraduate student researchers to examine youth and emerging adult stressors, coping mechanisms and outcomes and evaluate innovative interventions to support coping. Mushquash would also like to explore a multidisciplinary team approach that will facilitate collaboration across faculties, creating opportunities for innovative solutions to mental health challenges.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)