



President's Report to Senate

September
2021





Office of the President

Dr. Mirella Stroink appointed Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Lakehead University has named **Dr. Mirella Stroink** as its new dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences.

Dr. Stroink is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University, where she has served two terms as Chair from 2015 to 2021. She has begun as dean as of August 1.

As Chair of Psychology, she facilitated a three-year process of developing a new undergraduate curriculum.

She also identified opportunities for the development of programs unique to the University and positioned the department for an enhanced focus on student success and experiential learning.

She is a passionate educator and mentor, an accomplished researcher, and an innovative, collaborative and systems-minded leader who is committed to Lakehead University and to Thunder Bay and Simcoe County.

Dr. Stroink said she is delighted to become the dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, especially at such a critical time.

Dr. Stroink is looking forward to leveraging the faculty's strengths to demonstrate the value of Lakehead's programs, and mobilizing research to advance health in Thunder Bay, Simcoe County and in society as a whole.

Dr. Stroink looks forward to leading the vibrant Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences in achieving its strategic plan. In particular, she is eager to realize the Faculty's aims of diversity, equity, and inclusion, particularly for Indigenous students, faculty and staff, and to support its disciplines in embracing multiple ways of knowing.

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





Congratulations to Brianna Knox, Lakehead University's Free First-Year Tuition winner

Brianna Knox of London, Ont., is excited to start her Lakehead journey this September after winning the University's first-year free tuition draw.

In a draw for Fall 2021 incoming domestic high school students coming to Lakehead University, students had an opportunity to win their first-year tuition for free by registering and attending Virtual Open Houses, and many other eligible domestic recruitment webinars or meetings with Lakehead recruiters.

Knox, who will begin her degree in Psychology this fall, is looking forward to moving to Thunder Bay as she loves the region's landscape which she has experienced while camping with family.

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Evelyn Davenport tops at Cremona International Competition

A Lakehead University student placed first in the Cremona International Competition for Piano, held virtually on July 17 and 18.

Third-year music student **Evelyn Davenport** spent six weeks preparing for the Cremona Competition, based out of Italy, practicing more than 25 hours per week.

The 18-year-old, who began playing when she was six, performed seven pieces during the competition.

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Academic Excellence

Dr. Lana Ray named as Lakehead University's Indigenous Research Chair in Decolonial Futures

On July 1, **Dr. Lana Ray**, Assistant Professor in Indigenous Learning, began her appointment as Lakehead University's Indigenous Research Chair in Decolonial Futures.

The position, the first of its kind at Lakehead, forwards the university's vision to strengthen research that is grounded in Indigenous knowledges and culturally appropriate methodologies. Dr. Ray said decolonial futures are those in which "Anishinaabe people can proudly and freely live our knowledge systems and enact our sacred responsibilities."

Dr. Ray, an Anishinaabe scholar from Opwaaganasiniing (Red Rock Indian Band), brings to this appointment over a decade of experience working with Indigenous peoples and communities to implement Indigenous community-based approaches to research. She has been recognized internationally for her scholarship and has been a strong voice within Ontario for the advancement of Indigenous education.

The chair position is for a five-year term and may be renewed once.

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



Dr. Lana Ray receives Emerging Voices in Indigenous Scholarship/Researcher Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Lana Ray**, who received the Emerging Voices in Indigenous Scholarship/Researcher Award, presented by the Indigenous Inquiries Circle (IIC) Awards Committee at the 17th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.

This international award recognizes outstanding Indigenous scholarship being done by Indigenous scholars and researchers around the world.

The adjudication committee acknowledged Dr. Ray's clearly outstanding Indigenous scholarship that recognizes the importance and value of consultation, relationality, and collaboration in research with community and beyond. The award was presented at the online Indigenous Inquiries Circle pre-conference day on Wednesday, May 18.



Royal Society of Canada will honour two Lakehead University professors for their remarkable contributions

Two Lakehead University professors will soon be part of the Royal Society of Canada.

On Friday, Nov. 19, **Dr. Lori Chambers** will be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) and **Dr. Ruth Beatty** will be inducted into the RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Dr. Chambers, Professor of Gender and Women's Studies in Thunder Bay, is only the second Lakehead professor to become a Fellow of the RSC, joining Dr. Roger Mitchell, Professor Emeritus of Geology, who was elected as a Fellow in 1994.

Fellows of the RSC are distinguished Canadians from all branches of learning who have made remarkable contributions in the arts, the humanities and the sciences, as well as in Canadian public life.

Dr. Chambers joined Lakehead University in 1999. Chair of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, she is a former Lakehead University Research Chair on Gender, Law, and Equity, and was the Chair of the President's Task Force on Sexual Assault Education, Prevention, and Support.

She has won numerous awards, including Lakehead's Distinguished Researcher Award and awards from the Ontario Historical Society and the Canadian Journal of Law and Society.

Dr. Beatty, Associate Professor of Education in Orillia, is one of several new members of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, which recognizes those who have demonstrated a high level of achievement at an early stage of their career.

Dr. Beatty was selected for the College as a result of her collaborative and community-based research on the connections between Indigenous ways of knowing mathematics and the Western mathematics found in the Ontario curriculum.

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Lakehead University researchers helping to make housing more affordable across Canada

A Lakehead University professor is co-leading two research teams receiving more than \$1.3 million each from the Government of Canada, which will improve the availability of affordable housing in Canada.

Dr. Rebecca Schiff, Chair and Professor in the Department of Health Sciences, is co-leading At Home in the North: Partners in Housing and Home, as well as Community Housing Canada.

By working in partnership with communities across the provincial and territorial Norths to advance a northern housing continuum, this partnership project informs the development and implementation of context-based, culturally safe programs, services and models for housing and homelessness, developed by and centred in northern communities, Dr. Schiff added.

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Dr. Alla Reznik receives \$1,203,000 ORF Research Excellence Award

Dr. Alla Reznik, Canada Research Chair in Physics of Radiation Medical Imaging, and her colleagues at Western University have received an Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence (ORF-RE) award of \$1,203,000. The ORF-RE program supports “new leading-edge, transformative, and internationally significant research” that is of strategic value to Ontario.

This award from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities will support the project, 3D Ultrasound and Multi-Modality Imaging for Personalized Medicine. They are developing unique solutions to solve poorly met needs for the diagnosis of prostate cancer, breast cancer and uterine prolapse.



Robin Canuel selected as ACRL's Member of the Week

Robin Canuel, University Librarian at Lakehead University, was selected as the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) Member of the Week for July 19, 2021.

Representing approximately 10,000 individuals and libraries, the ACRL is the largest division of the American Library Association. ACRL develops programs, products, and services for those working in academic and research libraries so they can learn, be innovative, and lead within the academic community.

[Click here for the announcement and an interview with Robin Canuel.](#)

Lakehead University's Faculty of Business Administration granted extension of AACSB accreditation

Lakehead University's Faculty of Business Administration has had its AACSB accreditation extended for five years and it now includes both the Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business peer review team met with faculty, staff, students, and alumni in mid-March to conduct this intense peer-review process. Several aspects of the Faculty of Business of Administration's degree programs were assessed, including pedagogic strategies, program quality, learning outcomes, and student success.

Accreditation with AACSB International (AACSB) indicates that students receive a high-quality business education from an institution that values excellence, innovation and continuous improvement.

For more than a century, AACSB accreditation has been synonymous with the highest standards in business education. Today, a total of 901 institutions across 58 countries and territories have earned [AACSB accreditation in business.](#)

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Lakehead researcher involved in international collaboratory tackling of new approach to curing HIV



Dr. Pauline Sameshima, Lakehead University's Canada Research Chair in Arts Integrated Studies, is part of an international team of researchers recently awarded a five year, \$26.5-million (USD) grant from the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) to try a new strategy for curing HIV.

Known as the HIV Obstruction by Programmed Epigenetics (HOPE) Collaboratory, the multi-institution collaboratory will be led by researchers at Gladstone Institutes, Scripps Research Florida, and Weill Cornell Medicine. Their approach, which aims to both silence and permanently remove HIV from the body, takes advantage of knowledge about how other viruses have become naturally inactivated over time.

A world-leading expert in education and curriculum development using the arts, Sameshima will be a co-investigator working alongside Dr. Patricia Defechereux, the community engagement coordinator at HOPE, to develop the Community Arts Integrated Research (CAIR) plan.

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Psychology graduate students receive Best Poster Award from Canadian Psychological Association

A Canadian Psychological Association Best Poster Award (Student Section) was recently awarded to Lakehead Department of Psychology graduate students and faculty collaborators, Joshua R Hawkins (presenter), Jane A Harder, Chiao-En (Joanne) Kao, Angela MacIsaac, and K. Amanda Maranzan. Their study examined self-care behaviours in a national sample of professional psychology trainees, finding that program self-care culture is related to trainees' self-care behaviours and stress. These findings will impact the development of self-care and wellness strategies in Canadian programs that train future psychologists. Congratulations to the team!



Dr. Dariush Ebrahimi guest editor of special issue of *Sensors*

Dr. Dariush Ebrahimi, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science, has been selected to be the guest editor of a special issue of *Sensors*, an open access journal with an impact factor of 3.576 by MDPI, called “Intelligent Vehicular Networks and Communication Systems”.

[Click here to learn more...](#)

Lakehead University researchers receive Banting Fellowships for projects involving First Nations people

Two Lakehead University researchers have been awarded Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships of \$70,000 per year to study an online mental health intervention system for First Nations people and initiate a conversation about archival footage and medicine with Sandy Lake First Nation.



The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program provides two-year funding to the very best postdoctoral applicants, both nationally and internationally, who will positively contribute to the country's economic, social, and research-based growth.

Dr. Elaine Toombs will evaluate the development and implementation of a virtual, culturally-relevant mental health intervention system for individuals from First Nations communities to address accessibility related to substance use.

Researchers will examine both outcome and process-based data, using a mixed-method approach including interviews with treatment centre staff and service participants, quantitative measures of participant well-being, and program feasibility measures of attrition, technological difficulties, and participant engagement.

Dr. Chris Mushquash, Associate Professor in Psychology and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, is supervising Dr. Toombs during this project.

Dr. Travis Hay will bring archival records to members of Sandy Lake First Nation to initiate a conversation on histories of medicine shaped by political leaders, Elders, and collaborative research relations grounded in respect, reciprocity, and reconciliation.

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Lakehead / TBRHRI researchers receive more than \$244,000 from Canada Foundation for Innovation

Lakehead University and Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute scientists are receiving a total of more than \$244,000 in research grants through the John R. Evans Leaders Fund provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation.



Dr. Qiang Wei, Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering, received \$127,079 to design the next generation of wind energy conversion systems featuring small size and low weight, low cost and high conversion efficiency.

Dr. Lindsay Galway, Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Social-Ecological Health and Associate Professor in Health Sciences, received \$49,033 to establish the Confluence Collaboratory at Lakehead University, which will enhance and support research, training and the collaborations necessary to spark innovation, implement discoveries and share knowledge.



Dr. Alla Reznik, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Physics of Radiation Medical Imaging at Lakehead University and a Scientist at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute, received \$68,407 to manufacture large-area detector prototypes for medical use, which will use a new photoconductor material called amorphous lead oxide.

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Let's Talk Science outreach team receives 2021 Indigenous Outreach Project Award

Congratulations to the Lakehead Orillia campus *Let's Talk Science* outreach team who received the Indigenous Outreach Project Award during the 2021 Let's Talk Science National Volunteer Awards.

The Award recognizes the partnership between Let's Talk Science and the Education Department of the Beausoleil First Nation. The partnership allowed teacher candidates/Let's Talk Science volunteers to carry out STEM-focused learning opportunities for students at Christian Island Elementary School.

[Read more here...](#)

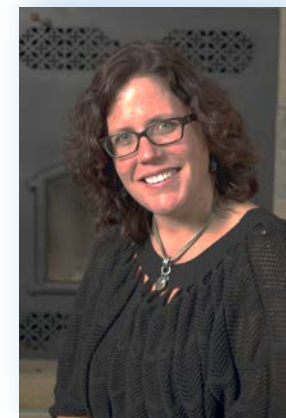


Dr. Kathy Kortés-Miller appointed Director of Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health

Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, is pleased to announce the recent appointment of **Dr. Kathy Kortés-Miller** as the new Director of the Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH) effective July 1.

Dr. Kortés-Miller took over from Dr. Elaine Wiersma, who expertly served as Director of CERAH since 2016. Dr. Wiersma thanks the Centre's staff, community partners, research affiliates, students, and University administrative support that allowed CERAH to thrive. She will be staying on a leadership role as Associate Director.

Dr. Kortés-Miller, Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work, has a passion for palliative care and improving the end-of-life care for all. She has served as CERAH's Associate Director since 2020. Her research is interdisciplinary and collaborative, contributing to a broad range of fields of study including: social work, palliative care, end-of-life, interprofessional education, LGBTQ+, caregiving and gerontology.



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Dr. Tarlok Sahota receives Distinguished Agronomist Award

Dr. Tarlok Sahota, Director of Lakehead University's Agricultural Research Station, has won the Distinguished Agronomist Award given out annually by the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA).



The Distinguished Agronomist Award is presented to members of the CSA in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the science and technology of growing and using plants in agriculture for food, fuel, fiber, recreation, and land restoration.

Dr. Sahota was able to lead and sustain a private research station (2004-'18) with no guaranteed funding and was instrumental in its transition to Lakehead University in 2018, lending stability to it. His ability to relate his research to producers' current and future needs has been acknowledged by many organizations across the region and the country.

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Dr. Charles Levkoe receives 2020 Food, Culture and Society's Best Article Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Charles Levkoe**, Associate Professor in Health Sciences and Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems, on receiving the *2020 Food, Culture & Society Best Article Award* for an article he was the lead author on for Taylor and Francis Online.

[Click here to read his paper, *Serving up food studies online: teaching about "food from somewhere" from nowhere*.](#)

The award is conferred by the editors of the journal to the article published in the previous calendar year that best exhibits particular excellence and also represents the scope and mission of the Association for the Study of Food and Society.

[**Click here to see Dr. Levkoe's acceptance speech...**](#)



Dr. Charles Levkoe Receives Early Researcher Award

Dr. Charles Levkoe, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems and Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences, has received an Early Researcher Award (ERA) from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. The ERA program provides support for promising, recently-appointed Ontario researchers to build their research teams. Each award to a leading researcher is a maximum of \$100,000 and must be matched by an additional \$50,000 from the researcher's institution and/or partner organization.

Dr. Levkoe was recently renewed for a second term as a Canada Research Chair. His ERA-supported project, Civil Society Network Engagement in Food Systems Governance, will offer critical insight into understanding and acting on some of Ontario's most pressing contemporary challenges - from addressing food insecurity and diet related disease to costly and unnecessary amounts of food waste and unsustainable levels of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the food system. Engagement in food systems governance is a powerful vehicle for building more healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems. This community-based, action-oriented research will study the evolution of civil society networks from place-based initiatives to engaging in food systems governance through processes of participatory decision-making, policy interventions, and multi-stakeholder engagement. Beyond providing direct value to Ontario's civil society networks, food studies scholars and policy makers, this research will also serve as the basis for a national and transnational exchange of knowledge and experiences leading to new capacity for innovation in democratic and participatory food systems governance.



Lakehead University and TBRHRI scientists receiving more than \$1.3 million for research

Lakehead University and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHRI) researchers are receiving more than \$1.3 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for 16 exciting research projects.

In 2020/21, Lakehead University received nearly \$2 million in assistance from the Research Support Fund to support the indirect costs of research, which includes costs for supporting the management of intellectual property, research and administration, ethics and regulatory compliance, research resources, and research facilities.



Dr. Sam Salem, Associate Professor in Civil Engineering at Lakehead University, is receiving a \$130,000 Discovery grant to test the fire performance of Timber-Concrete Composite systems in mass timber buildings over five years.

Some advantages of utilizing timber-concrete composite floor systems include greater strength, durability, and much improved acoustics and vibration performance characteristics.



Dr. Amir Ameli, Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering Department at Lakehead University, is receiving a total of \$152,500 to facilitate a smooth transition to more-secure power grids by tackling cyber-security challenges faced by their protection systems.



Dr. Michael Campbell, Assistant Professor in Chemistry and Lakehead University - Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute Research Chair, is receiving a total of \$132,500 to spend five years developing new methods for the cyclotron production of radionuclides and determining reactions and tools that will improve access to radionuclides for use in research, industry, and health care.

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Lakehead University professor receives NSERC funding to create coding program for Indigenous youth



A Lakehead University Computer Science professor is receiving a \$36,000 PromoScience grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to develop and deliver a six-week coding program collaboratively with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.

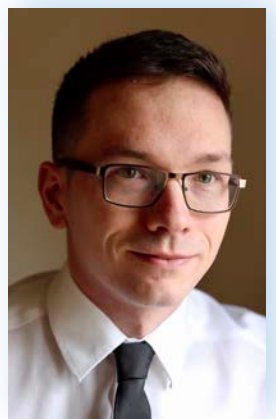
Dr. Vijay Mago, Chair and Associate Professor in Computer Science, is creating the program to serve Indigenous youth in grades 7 to 10 across Northwestern Ontario.

The results of Dr. Mago's work will introduce Indigenous youth to modern computer science skills and approaches through a consistent six-week program delivered by a skilled Computer Science graduate student as a new component of existing Nijiji Mentorship programming that serves over 4,000 Indigenous students per year.

Lisa Harris, Coordinator of the Nijiji Indigenous Mentorship Program at Lakehead University, will facilitate both virtual and in-person delivery of the programming.

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Lakehead-Georgian Partnership graduates first cohort



The Lakehead-Georgian Partnership, a collaboration between Lakehead University and Georgian College, celebrated its first cohort of graduates on Tuesday, June 8 and Thursday, June 10.

Ten students enrolled in the Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) degree and Electrical Engineering Technology advanced diploma program, and Honours Bachelor of Arts and Science (Environmental Sustainability) Specialization in Ecosystem Management degree and Environmental Technician diploma program, earned their degree-diplomas during Lakehead University's virtual faculty-specific convocation ceremonies.

Stephen Bond of Barrie, Ont. was one of the first electrical engineering students to set foot on Georgian's Barrie Campus back in September 2017.

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2021 Lloyd Dennis Award recipient creates connection and belonging for international students

When **Lu-Han (Leanne) Wang** moved to Orillia, Ontario four years ago as an international student, just about everything seemed new and unfamiliar.

This year's recipient of the Lloyd Dennis Award for outstanding citizenship used her experiences to foster opportunities for friendship and belonging, efforts that have helped make the university feel like a second home for herself and many others.

Leanne said that the small campus and the welcoming, caring staff at Lakehead Orillia make the transition easier but that there are extra hurdles for first-time international students.

With that in mind, Leanne became one of the first peer-mentors for international students at Lakehead Orillia when the program launched in 2019. Through the Lakehead International office, peer mentors make themselves available to their student-matches for questions or concerns about on- or off-campus life and help organize social activities.



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Dr. Sonja Grover's *The Persecution of Children as a Crime Against Humanity: The Case for the Prosecution*

Dr. Sonja Grover, Professor in the Faculty of Education, released her latest book - the most recent addition to her work on children's human rights in the context of international criminal law.

The book examines through various legal cases from international criminal courts/tribunals examples of the failure to charge persecution of children in connection with genocide, crimes against humanity and certain selected war crimes where the facts and the law would have supported the charge.

It introduces a new concept in international criminal law; namely the 'age-based persecution of children' as a crime against humanity and discusses the need for justice and accountability in regards to that distinct international crime. The topic of the persecution of children as a crime against humanity has in recent months come to the fore in the Canadian public consciousness as likely having occurred in the Canadian context. This with the discovery of mass unmarked graves holding the remains of missing Indigenous children who did not survive attendance at Canada's colonial residential 'school' system.



Social Responsibility

Lakehead University declaring the upcoming school year the Year of Climate Action

Lakehead University is declaring the 2021/2022 academic year a Year of Climate Action.

Lakehead University is calling on students, faculty, and staff to envision diverse contributions – everything from events to art, workshops, panel discussions, embedding climate learning outcomes into teaching, concrete climate actions, and more.

As parts of the country are seized by drought and wildfires, the impacts of climate change are becoming harder to ignore. The most recent report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released August 9, clearly outlines that urgent climate action is needed.

On November 26, 2020, Lakehead University confirmed its leadership on climate change by announcing it is divesting its endowment of fossil fuel stocks, the sixth Canadian university to do so.

Lakehead University is declaring the 2021/2022 academic year a Year of Climate Action (YOCA) to build on this divestment leadership and recognize the need for more bold steps to tackle climate change.

This includes recognizing the causes and consequences of climate change, and the steps that we collectively need to take to restore our relationships with each other and the land. The YOCA is as much an opportunity to engage in climate mitigation and adaptation as it is an opportunity to reflect on the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and how our actions should advance social, environmental and climate justice, including intergenerational inequity.

Over the past two years, Lakehead University has placed in the top 100 universities globally for the Times Higher Education Global Impact Rankings, the only assessment in the world that measures institutions of higher education on their performance related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainability is a core value of Lakehead University, as is reflected in its [Strategic](#) and [Academic](#) Plans. In 2019, the University launched its inaugural [Sustainability](#) Plan, further demonstrating its commitment to be a leader in sustainability and social responsibility.

The YOCA launched on Tuesday, Sept. 14, shortly after students return for the Fall semester. The launch introduced the YOCA, as well as profile how staff, faculty and students are getting involved.

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Climate Action Field School: Connecting Across the Lake Superior Watershed

The Lake Superior Living Labs Network's (LSLLN) Climate Action Field School will bring together a diverse group of young people poised to become regional climate leaders, this summer.

Using a hybrid model of virtual and in person learning, participants will engage in an experiential training program that includes virtual workshops, community site visits, and interactive events in coastal communities across the Lake Superior Watershed.

The Climate Action Field School took place between August 21 and 27 in four locations: Thunder Bay and Sault Ste Marie, Ontario; Houghton, Michigan; and Duluth, Minnesota.

"Our goal is to connect with and inspire emerging leaders and their communities to catalyze climate action across the Lake Superior Watershed," said Dr. Lindsay Galway, Canada Research Chair in Social-Ecological Health at Lakehead University.

In Thunder Bay, highlights of the Climate Action Field School include learning from Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, engaging in climate activism workshops, a voyageur canoe excursion to investigate areas of concern on Lake Superior, exploring urban agriculture, and learning about natural inks and dyes with local artist Betty Carpick.

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Local and Global Partnerships

Legacy of Hope Waniskahtan Exhibit



Lakehead University's Office of Indigenous Initiatives hosted the Legacy of Hope Waniskahtan Exhibit, designed to create greater awareness about the high rates of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.

The goal of the exhibit, at the Intercity Shopping Centre from Wednesday, Aug. 4 to Friday, Aug. 13, is to commemorate Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and hopefully prevent future violence.

The Legacy of Hope Foundation (LHF) is a national Indigenous-led, charitable organization working to promote healing and reconciliation in Canada for more than 19 years. It educates and raises awareness about the history and existing intergenerational impacts of the residential school system and subsequent '60s Scoop on Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) survivors, their descendants, and their communities.

Having hosted previous Legacy of Hope exhibits, staff at Lakehead University are proud to be entrusted with this year's timely exhibit.

Lakehead University partnered with the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) as community leaders in addressing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. ONWA continues to support programs by working on the frontlines of this ongoing national tragedy and will be inviting the Grandmother Earth Dress to be part of this important exhibit.

The Grandmother Earth Dress is a traditional red jingle dress, created by ONWA, and inspired by Jaime Black's REDress Project, which honours and acknowledges Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+.



Denise Baxter, Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, speaks during the opening ceremony while Michele Solomon, Community Development Manager, Ontario Native Women's Association, and Rita Fenton from Fort William First Nation light the candle that burnt each day.



Lakehead Research Team Recognized with Award for Work Helping Firefighters

A team comprised of individuals from Lakehead University and Thunder Bay Fire Rescue gathered together on July 15 to celebrate the Research and Innovation Award of Excellence that was announced in March. Their research focused on developing occupational health and safety strategies to address on-the-job exposures linked to mental health concerns.

Dr. Sinden has spent the last few years working on this research with Chief Greg Hankkio, Thunder Bay Fire Rescue, Division Chief of Administration Dennis Brescacin from Thunder Bay Fire Rescue and President of the Thunder Bay Professional Firefighters Association, and First Class Firefighter Regan Bolduc from Thunder Bay Fire Rescue, who is the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Technician.

A significant of the research is that Bolduc, supported by Chief Hankkio and Brescacin, has led meetings with the CIRT and Joint Health and Safety Committee to discontinue defusing as a strategy to mitigate negative effects of high exposure calls.

The committee has replaced the CIRT and redirected focus towards identifying and providing mental health resources as support for firefighters with Thunder Bay Fire Rescue.

This research has also informed development of an evidence-based approach for managing firefighter mental health. Protecting firefighters' physical and mental health ensures that they can continue to serve and protect in a way that ensures a safer wider community.

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From left, Dennis Brescacin, Regan Bolduc, Chief Greg Hankkio, Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Dr. Kathryn Sinden, and Deputy Chief Dave Paxton stand together after the event.



CALAREO Delivers Presentation to the Argentine Forum for International Education

On August 6, **Dr. Batia Stolar**, **Jill Sherman** and **Pierre Sved** presented on the Canada and Latin America Research and Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) consortium to the monthly meeting of the Argentine Forum for International Education (FAEI), a group of 25 universities in Argentina with an interest in expanding cooperation with Canada.

The meeting was organized with the assistance of Ms. Andrea Kobylnik, Trade Commissioner for the Canadian Embassy in Argentina. This is CALAREO's "first contact" in Argentina, selected as a priority country both for its high-quality education and as one of only 5 Latin American countries that currently partner with Mitacs. One follow up meeting with the Universidad Argentina de la Empresa (UADE) (Argentine University of Enterprise) has resulted in a potential partnership for both Lakehead and CALAREO.

Lakehead University's Paleo-DNA Lab assisting with Vancouver's Babes in the Woods cold case

Lakehead University's Paleo-DNA Laboratory is helping investigate one of Vancouver's oldest unsolved murders.

Stephen Fratpietro, Technical Manager of Lakehead's Paleo-DNA Lab, is working with Redgrave Research Forensics Services and the Vancouver Police Department to identify two boys found dead in Stanley Park in the early 1950s.

The case – known in popular culture as Babes in the Woods – dates back to 1953, when a groundskeeper discovered the boys' skeletal remains near Beaver Lake. The children's skulls had been bludgeoned by a hatchet found near their bodies. A picnic basket filled with petrified food was also found.

After his team successfully extracted DNA from the children's bones, Fratpietro hopes his work can help identify the boys, and maybe even determine who killed them.

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Centre on Education and Lifelong Learning

Lakehead Orillia's Humanities 101 program's graduation took place via Zoom on May 17. As a result of a partnership with Anishnabek Employment and Training Services, this year's class included seven students from Simcoe County and ten students from indigenous communities in Northwestern Ontario. They have taken classes together online in a variety of disciplines with professors from both campuses, including Geology, Nursing, Art, and Education. Graduates received a "celebration in a box". Attached is a picture of the graduating class, some of whom are sporting their new Lakehead sunglasses. The 'future is bright' for this dynamic group of new Humanities 101 alumni!

Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) began its latest series on May 12th: Moving On: Migration and Immigration through the Ages. This series features Dr. Barrington Walker, the U.N.'s Rema Jamous Imseis, Kelly Toughill, Dr. Chandran Kukathas, and Dr. Augie Fleras. Dr. Kukathas, former head of the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, will be zooming in from Singapore to discuss his brand-new book, *Immigration and Freedom* (Princeton UP, 2021). Over 100 people are participating in this series, with many of those joining from both of Lakehead's communities, Orillia and Thunder Bay.

On July 19th, over 300 households signed up to participate in "When History Hurts: a community dialogue," with Elder and Head Councillor Lorraine McRae (Rama), Senior Archivist Jesse Boiteau (National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation), and **Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux** (Lakehead Chair of Truth and Reconciliation).



Consultations will begin this fall with elders and youth from local First Nations in the Simcoe County area. These will inform the launch of "Truth and Reconciliation in our Community: Enabling Indigenous-led Dialogue". This project is funded by a SSHRC Connection grant.

The Ontario Youth Naturalist Program has expanded again! Since piloting the program in February, there have been 118 high school students participate in various elements of programming, with students first joining from the classroom and - with the most recent pivot - from their own homes throughout Simcoe County. Working with Lakehead's partners at Parks Canada and Bass Lake Farms, the programming will continue to expand in the fall.



Researchers studying COVID-19 mental health impacts thanks to Bell Let's Talk funding

Lakehead University is receiving \$25,000 from Bell Let's Talk, allowing researchers to study how COVID-19 has impacted physical activity behaviour and mental health in university students.

Two researchers from Lakehead University's School of Kinesiology, **Dr. Ian Newhouse**, Director/Professor, and **Dr. Erin Pearson**, Associate Professor, will lead the research project, which is being funded through the Bell Let's Talk Post-Secondary Fund.

Bell Let's Talk recently awarded more than \$3 million in funding to 123 post-secondary institutions across Canada to support activities aligned with the voluntary National Standard of Canada for Mental and Well-Being for Post-Secondary Students.

The research aims to identify health promoting strategies that can be used to develop future programming at Lakehead University.

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Lakehead University awarded \$751,000 to reduce barriers to access and equity for students

Lakehead University has been awarded \$751,000 by eCampusOntario as part of the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities Virtual Learning Strategy (VLS).

Announced in December, 2020, the VLS is a historic, \$50-million investment by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities (MCU) intended to drive growth and advancement in virtual learning across the province's post-secondary institutions.

The VLS will expand the possibilities of traditional and life-long learning through the accelerated use of both online and hybrid learning.

Lakehead's Teaching Commons has received \$330,000 as part of the Digital Capacity stream, which provides institutions that have low current capacity with targeted supports in instructional design, educational media development, and learning technology rovers (paid students).

Lakehead will use these funds to hire two Instructional Designers, a Media Designer/Developer, and Learner Technology Support positions on both campuses to provide training and support to faculty in the design, development, and delivery of quality online programming.

As part of the Digital Fluency stream, two projects have been awarded funding to create and adopt professional development resources and supports for faculty and students to improve virtual teaching and learning.

Using the Seven Grandfather Teachings as a pedagogical framework, Lakehead's Indigenous Curriculum Specialist, Jerri-Lynn Orr, has been awarded \$200,000 to lead members of the Indigenous Curriculum Specialists Network in the development of an online, embodied learning experience exploring diverse Indigenous pedagogical approaches to online education.

Lakehead University also received \$171,000 under this stream for the creation of a four-module, 32-hour faculty development course, focused on the design/delivery of quality, digital learner experiences.

Two projects have been awarded \$25,000 each as part of the Digital Content stream. This stream provides funds for the development and adoption of a portfolio of high-quality online, high-quality virtual simulations and/or lab content to reduce the strain on campus space and infrastructure, and enable more flexible delivery to attract new markets for online learning in Ontario.

Lakehead University is also a partner on an additional \$530,360 of successfully funded projects being led by Ryerson University, Sault College, Nipissing University, and Queen's University.

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Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ingenuity's Ascend Accelerator Program Graduates First Cohort

On July 23rd, we celebrated the graduation for the first cohort of Ingenuity's Ascend Accelerator program. The Ascend program was a 12-week boot camp-style program designed to provide support for the development of student-based business ideas. Along with the funding provided from FedNor, the four student-based business ventures that were accepted to the program were provided mentorship, weekly workshops and were held accountable to milestone goals created throughout the 12 weeks. The first cohort saw a diverse group of businesses navigating their way through the entrepreneurial journey; they all faced some challenges and saw many successes. Ingenuity will host a second cohort of the Ascend program starting in May 2022.

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Graduates of the Ascend Accelerator program include, from left, Yash Gupta, Nehi Igbinijesu, Mary Wokomah, Tristan St. Aubin, Ajey Meekis, and Andrew Faulkner.



Innovation and Economic Prosperity Designation

Lakehead University is a member of the University Economic Development Association (UEDA), which offers an accreditation program to be designated as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity (IEP) University. The IEP designation recognizes institutions for their contributions to regional economic development.

The Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development (IPED) is leading the designation process for Lakehead University. IPED will be engaging internal and external communities in the fall to gather feedback on our current state of economic development engagement and opportunities for enhancement in Thunder Bay and Simcoe County. If Lakehead obtains the IEP designation, we will be one of only two Canadian universities to achieve this recognition. Information has been shared in the Communications Bulletin, and a survey to gather input will be released in the Fall.



Capacity Development

County of Simcoe presents final instalment of \$10-million pledge

On July 22, County of Simcoe Warden George Cornell officially announced the final instalment of a 10-year commitment from the County to Lakehead University.

The final \$500,000 instalment completes a \$10-million pledge from the County of Simcoe, which was approved by County Council in 2009, to improve access to postsecondary education across the region.

Since the opening of Simcoe Hall in 2010, Lakehead University has improved access to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programming with the addition of four degree-diploma programs through the Lakehead-Georgian Partnership; expanded the teacher education program to include Intermediate/Secondary level training; and, opened the doors to improve access to continuing education and professional training opportunities with the establishment of the Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning.

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