

Annual Report

from the Aboriginal Management Council

October 1, 2010

The Aboriginal Management Council has worked with Lakehead University Office of Aboriginal Initiatives to ensure that the interests and concerns of the Aboriginal Community are addressed. The AMC serves as an official and formal decision-making body and channel for communications between Aboriginal peoples and Lakehead University respecting issues which affect Aboriginal post-secondary education.

AMC is pleased to report the following accomplishments in Aboriginal Initiatives:

Outreach and promotion activities, raising awareness and visibility of the University:

- Secured an additional Aboriginal Liaison /recruiter) Intern position from NOHFC and placing this intern to work out of the Admissions and Recruitment office.
- A two year contract position was funded through MTCU APSET Plan for the Aboriginal Community Liaison/recruiter.
- On Campus tours and a highly successful Aboriginal Discovery Day in April with approximately 165 Aboriginal students from several local & regional high schools attending. . . an LU first!
- A major two week advertising campaign featuring Aboriginal Student success stories in the Chronicle Journal leading up to the Aboriginal Discovery day.
- Participation at several career fairs and gatherings promoting Lakehead University. (14 Career Fairs, 7 Aboriginal Gatherings such as Pow Wows, Aboriginal conferences and Youth Gatherings.
- Development of promotional materials and student role model posters.
- Participation and presence in the Aboriginal Post Secondary Information Program (Road Warriors). ACLO along with several other universities visited 32 High-schools in 27 different communities to deliver presentations and information sessions. Areas covered were Northwest Ontario, Southern Georgian Bay and Northern Georgian Bay.
- Ongoing and increased advertising of Aboriginal Initiatives in Aboriginal media
- Established regular contact with Aboriginal Post Secondary Education Counsellors (APSEC) from Mattawa, NNEC, NAN, Ft Hope and Robinson Superior to meet with their students in the AC-SS office and to promote more communication and collaboration on retention, recruitment and support initiatives.
- Held a one day Aboriginal Post Secondary Education Directors (APSED) Information session at the Orillia with 5 local FN representatives and another is planned.
- Updating of the Aboriginal Initiatives Promotional booklet. Received an award for Outstanding General Brochure for Special Populations from the National Orientation Directors Association in November 2009.
- Inclusion of Follow your Dreams Promotional video on Admission and Recruitment's website.
- Increase presence and participation at Seven Generations Educational Institute (SGEI).
- Included in the 3 year Aboriginal Post Secondary Education and Training (APSET) submission to MTCU funding for a one day a week Aboriginal speakers or Elders presence at the Orillia campus.
- A connection with the local Aboriginal community Elders has been established and an Elders Terms of Reference has been developed.
- An Aboriginal Initiatives Ad Hoc Committee has been formed and is connected with the AMC Advisory Committee at the Thunder Bay Campus.

- A one day Information session was held at the Orillia campus with Aboriginal Education Directors (AED) and the Orillia Faculty and staff. The purpose of the day was to establish relationships with the AED & Counsellors and to share information on Aboriginal Education issues, Band funding, challenges, current programs offered at the Orillia campus and future program possibilities.
- Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training (APSET) referred to Gichi Ken Daa Si Win: Higher Learning, Higher Knowledge and Education at Lakehead University, was completed. Strategic goals and objective identified in this document guide the direction and implementation of projects and activities and are aligned with Lakehead University's Strategic Plan mission and goals related to Aboriginal peoples.
- The Aboriginal Academic Programming Survey inventory was completed and action plans are underway to identify the next steps.
- The Aboriginal Academic Programming Survey has been reviewed by joint AMC/SAC Committee and it has been updated to include Faculties who have not responded to original survey. This document is an inventory of all Aboriginal content courses offered throughout the University Faculties. It also identifies courses that are cross listed and courses that are offered at the Graduate level. This information is useful for the Nanibijou Steering Committee which is currently in the process of developing a Masters program in Indigenous Studies.
- The implementation of the Nanibijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (NAGE) Program has begun. Several activities were carried out from September 2009 – April 2010. These included: Monthly sharing circles, one on one contact, development of a NAGE poster card, role model posters, mass mail out of posters & NAGE post card, advertisements, information session for 3rd & 4th year Aboriginal undergrad students with Faculty of Graduate Studies, social gatherings and linking students to resources internally and to other SAGE resources. Recommendations from the ACSS survey have been implemented and academic and cultural supports have been put in place and most of the recommendations have been carried out.
- Consistent presence of Elders on Campus has been achieved.
- In collaboration with the Lakehead University Alumni Office, an Aboriginal Alumni Chapter has been established with approximately 90 members.
- Tomson Highway completed his second and final year at Lakehead University as "Artist in Residence". The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives successfully organized several speaking engagements internally (classroom and faculty) including two cabarets featuring his latest composition.
- A Medicine garden at the sweat lodge site was established and an additional sweat lodge constructed.
- Lakehead University received funding for improvement of Aboriginal Student space on campus. Created an Elders room and reorganized and upgraded the Aboriginal Student Lounge and Computer Lab area.

Aboriginal involvement in the promotion of Aboriginal Research:

- An Aboriginal Partnership Research Award was created by The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, with the Aboriginal Management Council and the Office of Research and awarded for the first time this year during Lakehead University's Research and Innovation week to Dr. Harvey Lemlin, Dr. Rhonda Koster and community partner Red Rock Indian Band.
- An Aboriginal Research magazine was published as part of Lakehead University's Research and Innovation week
- Awards were presented to 3 Aboriginal Graduate Students who participated in the Graduate Studies Research Poster display and oral presentations.
- The Aboriginal Initiatives promotional booklet profiles other Aboriginal Research conducted at Lakehead University. This promotional booklet is widely distributed. Approximately 2,000 copies have been distributed through various means.

- The film "A Living History of Métis Families" as told by Dorothy Chartrand was featured during Lakehead University's Research and Innovation Week in February 2010. Film is produced by Dr. Judy Barnes, Canada Research Chair, Indigenous Education.
- An "Evening Theatre: Aboriginal Stories and Storytellers" was also planned in conjunction with the Métis film showing, featuring a series of four one act plays, (15 minutes in length), written and produced by Professional Year students enrolled in a required course on Aboriginal Issues, offered by Department of Aboriginal Education, Faculty of Education.

Other Successes-

- **Major Report "Access to Opportunities "on \$250,000 funds received January 2009 from MTCU)** - The report was submitted to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities at the end of April reporting that projects identified in the proposal were successfully completed.
- **The nomination of Tomson Highway by the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and AMC for a Lakehead University honorary doctorate.** Nomination was successful and Tomson received an honorary doctorate at the May 2010 Convocation along with Tony Belcourt, a prominent former national Métis leader.
- **Development of a 3 year APSET Action plan and submitted to MTCU for funding 3 year funding 2009-2012** for Aboriginal Initiatives. Funding approved for 2009 -2012 was \$969,200 per year. This represents an increase of \$459,500 per year from previous fixed base funding which is \$1,378,500 over the next 3 years
- **Secured additional \$77,900** for Aboriginal Programming (one time space funding) from MTCU, NOHFC & Tomson Highway cabarets.
- Lakehead University held another successful **Annual Pow wow.**
- **Lakehead University was awarded the "Outstanding General Brochure for Special Populations"** for Aboriginal Initiatives Promotional Booklet.
- **Actively participate in the Nanibijou Steering Committee** which is in the process of developing a Masters in Indigenous Studies.
- **Initiated Indigenous Knowledge Workshops** for faculty and delivered a joint presentation with an Aboriginal faculty member to Dean's Council on "Dealing with Aboriginal Issues in the Classroom". This involved working in collaboration with the Associate Vice President (Provost) Academic and Instructional Development Centre to plan on going Indigenous Knowledge sessions for faculty and to identify best practices models, develop a resources team and supports.
- **Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre** – The final stages of preparing a Business Plan for the development of an Aboriginal Centre on the Lakehead University Campus is underway.
- **Lakehead University hosted** several Aboriginal speakers on campus, such as visiting Elder Dave Courchene from Sagueen First Nation community in Manitoba, Lee Maracle is a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Canadian Culture at Western Washington University, a member of the Sto:loh Nation and an author of a number of critically acclaimed literary works.
- Initiated **"Aboriginal Art Acquisition"** project with former owner of the Landmark Inn.