

President's Report to Senate: May 12, 2025

I am pleased to present my report to Senate, providing updates on key academic and institutional priorities. This report reflects our recent achievements, ongoing initiatives, and the collective efforts of our dedicated faculty, staff, and students in advancing Lakehead University's academic mission. It also highlights our continued commitment to fostering an environment of excellence, innovation, and community engagement as we work together to shape the future of our institution.

Lakehead Celebrates King Charles III Coronation Medal Recipients

We are [proud to recognize](#) several distinguished members of the Lakehead University community who were awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in March, and we expect a couple more employees to receive this noteworthy recognition in the weeks to come, as well. This prestigious honor, recognizing exceptional service, is the first Canadian commemorative medal issued for a coronation.

Thunder Bay—Superior North MP Patty Hajdu presented the medal to Lakehead faculty, staff, and alumni, including Pipe Major Lorne Clifford, Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Dr. Roopa Rakshit, Dr. Alla Reznik, and Dr. Michel S. Beaulieu. These individuals were honored for their outstanding contributions in areas such as mental health, community building, breast cancer detection, historical preservation, and fostering inclusivity.

Highlights of their contributions:

- **Pipe Major Lorne Clifford:** Celebrated for over four decades of volunteer service, bridging communities through music and cultural diplomacy.
- **Dr. Christopher Mushquash:** Recognized for his work improving mental health services for northern, rural, and Indigenous communities.
- **Dr. Roopa Rakshit:** Honored for her leadership in empowering international students and fostering cross-cultural understanding.
- **Dr. Alla Reznik:** Acknowledged for developing groundbreaking breast cancer detection technology.
- **Dr. Michel S. Beaulieu:** Celebrated for his contributions to preserving northern Ontario's history and supporting students.

We extend our congratulations to each recipient, whose dedication to their communities and professions exemplifies the values that make Lakehead University proud.

2025 Community Builders Awards

On April 24, *Orillia Matters* hosted its third annual **Community Builders Awards**, recognizing individuals and organizations making significant contributions to the vibrancy and well-being of the Orillia community.

We are proud to share that **Lakehead University's Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL)** was inducted into the **Hall of Fame** category—an honour that reflects the University's continued commitment to meaningful community partnership and lifelong learning opportunities in the region.

Lakehead University is in excellent company among this year's honourees, who represent a wide range of sectors, including arts, education, environment, health care, and youth leadership. *OrilliaMatters* will feature the recipients in a series of articles in the coming weeks.

The recognition of CELL speaks to the impactful work being done by our faculty and staff to strengthen Lakehead's presence and contribution in Orillia and beyond.



Thunder Bay Campus Applicant Reception – April 24, 2025

Lakehead University welcomed approximately 100 prospective students along with their parents and supporters to the annual **Applicant Reception** at the Thunder Bay campus on April 24, 2025. Held in the Agora, the event provided an engaging and informative opportunity for future students to connect with faculty, staff, and current students while learning more about the academic programs and student experience offered at Lakehead.

The evening opened with remarks from the President, who welcomed attendees on behalf of the University and acknowledged the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation. The President's message emphasized Lakehead's commitment to reconciliation, our student-centred learning environment, and the personal and academic transformation that begins with a Lakehead education.

Prospective students with their parents and supporters were encouraged to explore the campus, ask questions, and envision themselves as part of Lakehead's vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community. Many deans and faculty members were present to answer questions, provide insight into academic pathways, and share what makes their programs distinctive.

The event reinforced our commitment to providing students with a first-class education rooted in critical thinking, experiential learning, and meaningful connections.



Employee Wellness Event – Thunder Bay Campus

As part of Lakehead University's ongoing commitment to employee well-being and in alignment with the University's Wellness Strategy, the LU Social Committee hosted **"A Gathering for Faculty and Staff: An Afternoon of Wellness"** on **Thursday, April 17, 2025**, in the Main Dining Hall at the Thunder Bay campus.

Held near the end of the academic year—a time marked by reflection, celebration, and transition—the event provided faculty and staff with an opportunity to unwind and reconnect with colleagues following a busy winter term. The afternoon featured interactive games (including

“Lakehead’s Price is Right”), prizes, snacks, and refreshments, all designed to foster enjoyment, reduce stress, and strengthen our sense of community.

The event highlighted the University’s recognition of the essential contributions of its faculty and staff and reinforced the importance of employee wellness in fostering a healthy and engaged campus environment.



Employee Service Recognition Reception

On **April 30, 2025**, the Thunder Bay campus hosted a reception to celebrate employees who reached significant service milestones of 20, 30, and 40 years, as well as those who retired before June 30, 2025. The event was a memorable occasion filled with appreciation and camaraderie.

The following employees were recognized for their years of service:

20 Years of Service:

Elisabeth Korteweg, Robert Perrier, Robert Petrunia, Douglas Ivison, Beatrice Vernier, Matthew Boyd, Rachel Warburton, Andrew Conly, Yanglin Gong, Mathew Leitch, Hao Bai, Millo Shaw, Larry Kempe, Raynald Lemelin, Roy Teniuk, Andrea Tarsitano, Janet Skerget, Joseph Ripku, Debra Gold, David Schelling, Garth Galvin, Susanne Walford, Stefanie Stangier, Clara Sacchetti-Dufresne, Jennifer Bain-Manion, Sherry Herchak, Ashley Beda, Marek Jaworski, Ralph Kiessig, Batia Stolar, Lee Potestio, Timothy Rowe, Scott Pound, Zi-Hua Jiang, Mirella Stroink, Donald Kerr, Kamil Zaniewski, Brian McLaren, Jason Blahuta, Gautam Das, Jianye Liu, Rhonda Koster, Jarrett Sylvestre, Juan Pernia, Hassan Naser, Audrey Drebit, Wilson Wang, Joseph Carney, Razvan Anisca, Monica Ilie, Crystal Kondreska, Qing Zou, Michel Beaulieu, Michael Moore, Tomislav Sapic, Lori Vidotto, Brad Miller, Monique Marchand, Franco Sgambelluri, Sheila Walsh, Robert Law, Sreekumari Kurissery, Nandakumar Kanavillil, Seth Agbo.

30 Years of Service:

Meilan Liu, Richard Maundrell, Susan Childs, Michael Moland, John Fell, Mary Hill, Roland Martin, Robert Bell, Margot Ross.

40 Years of Service:

Leanna Rizzuto, Karen Woychyshyn, Giovanni Bonofiglio.

Retirees:

Deborah Riddell, Suzanne Osadic, Patty Hopkinson, Bruce Misner, David Savela, Bonnie Knott, Rita Blais, Kevin O'Neil, Kathryn Davidson, Thomas Austin, Ursula MacDonald, Garry Rathje, David Greenwood, Cynthia Haggerty, Chris Parkes, Philip Fralick, Robert McCluskey, Sharon Dempsey, Morna Toderash, Ryan Spivak, Manfred Plank, Giovanni DeCresenzo, Jennifer Roth, Tuula Maunula, Karen Romito, Susan Auld, Lori Fleming, Greg Kenna, Scott Hamilton, Timothy Kaiser, Kam Leung, Azim Mallik, Heidi Schraft, Bakhtiar Moazzami, Ian Newhouse, Trudy Russo, Michael Wesner, Roland Martin, Edward Brownlee.

On behalf of myself and the entire Lakehead community, I am truly grateful for your dedicated service and the invaluable contributions you have made to the success and growth of our university. Your commitment over the years has played a pivotal role in shaping the institution we are today, and I thank you for your unwavering dedication.

Thank You to Our Outgoing LUSU Executive Team

On behalf of Lakehead University, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to **Faraz Khorsan** (President), **Brandon Rhéal Amyot** (Vice President, Orillia), **Sanpreet Singh** (Vice President, Operations & Finance), and **Amit Boyina** (Vice President, Advocacy) for their dedication and service to the Lakehead University Student Union during their term. Their commitment to representing and advocating for the student body has made a meaningful impact on our community. We are grateful for their leadership, collaboration, and passion for student life, and we wish each of them continued success in all their future endeavors.



Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gillian Siddall
President & Vice-Chancellor