

President's Report to Senate: November 25, 2024

I am pleased to present this report to Senate, highlighting key accomplishments and milestones at Lakehead University over the last month. From important initiatives in reconciliation and community engagement to our continued focus on innovation and academic excellence, this report showcases the significant progress we are making in advancing the university's mission and vision. I look forward to discussing these developments in greater detail and continuing our collective work to ensure Lakehead's success in both academic and community-oriented endeavors.

Dr. Scott Hamilton and CAAWGUG Honored with Governor General's Innovation Award for Pioneering Work in Reconciliation and Awareness

The Canadian Archaeological Association Working Group on Unmarked Graves (CAAWGUG), chaired by Dr. Kisha Supernant and including Lakehead University's Dr. Scott Hamilton, has been honored with the 2024 Governor General's Innovation Award. Recognized for their groundbreaking work, CAAWGUG has developed critical resources to aid those affected by searches for missing children and unmarked burials. As advocates for Survivors, advisors to Indigenous communities, and collaborators with government and industry, CAAWGUG has become a prominent voice shaping public understanding. This well-deserved award reflects their impactful work in advancing reconciliation and awareness across Canada.

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Hamilton on this prestigious recognition with the Governor General's Innovation Award. His work with the Canadian Archaeological Association Working Group on Unmarked Graves is truly impactful, advancing both reconciliation and awareness on a national scale.

Lakehead University has joined Academics Without Borders (AWB)

Lakehead University has proudly joined Academics Without Borders (AWB), a Canadian network of post-secondary institutions dedicated to advancing global development through capacity-building projects in low- and middle-income countries. This new membership offers Lakehead faculty and staff unique access to a range of international partnership opportunities, enabling them to collaborate with institutions around the world and propose transformative projects to AWB. By joining this network, Lakehead reinforces its commitment to fostering justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion on a global scale. Through these initiatives, our community can share its knowledge and expertise to support the development of educational resources and systems in regions facing significant challenges. I encourage faculty, staff, and students to engage in this valuable work, as it offers a chance to create lasting impacts in communities worldwide while enriching our own learning and growth.

International Students have Coffee with the President: October 18, 2024

On August 28, over 400 new international students joined us for LUI's International Student Welcome Day. During the event, students received tickets for the Campus & Community Fair, where they could enter to win a variety of prizes. One of the most popular choices was "Coffee with the President & VIP," which has since taken place. This special gathering allowed students to connect personally with university leadership, fostering a sense of belonging and creating a memorable start to their Lakehead journey.



Mohammed Nahid Hasan - Bangladesh, Mohammed Ivan Mahmud - Bangladesh, Dr. Gillian Siddall President & Vice-Chancellor, Mohammed Tolba (Simon) - Morocco,, Alexia Zelaya - Honduras, Mr. James Aldridge Vice Provost, Lakehead International

Lakehead welcomes Subbu Sivaramakrishnan as Dean of Business October 25, 2024 – Thunder Bay, Ont.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Subramanian (Subbu) Sivaramakrishnan will join Lakehead University as the new Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration, effective January 1, 2025. With over 30 years of experience, Dr. Sivaramakrishnan brings a proven track record of innovative academic leadership, previously demonstrated at the Asper School of Business, where he revamped curricula to meet societal and industry needs, introduced Indigenous business and sustainability courses, and expanded the MBA program significantly. Dr. Sivaramakrishnan's commitment to collaboration and strategic growth aligns well with our values, and we look forward to his leadership in strengthening Lakehead's profile in business education across Ontario and beyond.



Exploring Opportunities: BMO's Melanie Cook Tours Lakehead's Orillia Campus

President Siddall hosted Melanie Cook, VP of Commercial Banking, BMO for a tour of Lakehead University's Orillia campus. During the visit, Melanie gained valuable insights into Lakehead's commitment to education and community engagement. Melanie noted the beneficial ways the university could collaborate including co-op placements and team retreats on campus. The tour represents a commitment to engaging with the community in both Simcoe County and Northwestern Ontario.



Mr. Mike den Haan, Vice President of University Advancement, Dr. Gillian Siddall President & Vice Chancellor, Ms. Melanie Cook Vice President Commercial Banking Central/Northeastern Ontario and Durham Region, Dr. Linda Rodenburg, Principal Orillia Campus, Vice President Commercial Banking Central/Northeastern Ontario and Durham Region, Student Success Ambassadors: Marguerite MacKinlay and Harmony Demers.

Orillia Homecoming Festivities Oct. 25 to 27th



Photo: Fall Colour Boat Cruise, Oct. 26

Lakehead University's Orillia Homecoming 2024 offered a vibrant lineup of events that brought together alumni, students, and their families for a memorable weekend of connection and celebration. The festivities kicked off on Friday with Family Night at the Barrie Sunset Drive-In, featuring a double feature movie, engaging games, and exciting prizes for attendees.

On Saturday, participants embarked on a Fall Colour Boat Cruise on Lake Rosseau, enjoying the stunning Muskoka autumn scenery, followed by a lively Pub N' Games Night at the historic Bala Bay Inn, where guests enjoyed music, games, and refreshments.

The weekend concluded on Sunday with a virtual panel discussion delving into the widespread fascination with true experience by taking advantage of special hotel rates and

complimentary access to the Muskoka Beer Spa, making it a comprehensive and enjoyable Homecoming weekend.

Community-based research navigates social, economic and environmental sustainability

Lakehead researchers Dr. Martha Dowsley and Dr. Debra Mackinnon are conducting impactful, SSHRC-funded studies. Dr. Dowsley investigates cultural and economic relationships with plants in Indigenous and Nubian communities, aiming to strengthen food sovereignty and cultural resilience through a \$328,000 grant. Dr. Mackinnon examines the evolving role of Ontario public libraries in fostering safety and inclusivity amid societal challenges, supported by a \$97,267 grant. These projects reflect Lakehead University's dedication to sustainability, equity, and global knowledge advancement.



Dr. Martha Dowsley



Dr. Debra Mackinnon

Lakehead University Hosts Federal Announcement for \$980,595 Grant Supporting At-Risk Youth in Thunder Bay

Lakehead University has received \$980,595 over four years (2024-2028) to fund the Promoting Positive & Healthy Youth Relationships project, an initiative focused on fostering healthy relationships among at-risk youth in Thunder Bay. A formal announcement will be made on November 1, 2024, with Minister Hajdu in attendance to celebrate this significant investment in youth well-being.



Christopher Mushquash, Ph.D., C.Psych. Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health & Addiction, Dr. Shevaun Nadin (CRaNHR), Dr. Mary Ellen Hill (CRaNHR), Marianne Stewart (TBDHU), Minister Hajdu, Dr. Andrew Dean, Angela Gollat (TBDHU)

Honouring Indigenous Veterans: Lakehead University and Confederation College Host Commemorative Exhibits for Veterans' Week

In recognition of Veterans' Week, Lakehead University and Confederation College hosted exhibits honoring the contributions of Indigenous veterans from Northwestern Ontario. These displays, featuring photos and artifacts from the World Wars and peacekeeping missions, highlight the bravery and resilience of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit soldiers. Lakehead's exhibit focused on the Indigenous Veterans of Treaty #3, developed in collaboration with the Fort Frances Museum, Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung Historical Centre, and others, to commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of Indigenous veterans. Confederation College's exhibit, created with the Native Veterans Association of Northwestern Ontario, shared regional stories in the spirit of reconciliation and education.



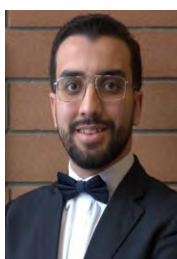
Artifacts and photographs commemorating the important contributions of Indigenous veterans will be on display at Lakehead University and Confederation College from November 6 to 11.

Lakehead Researchers Secure \$1.4 Million in NSERC Funding for Pioneering Projects

Lakehead University researchers have received over \$1.4 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to support innovative studies across civil engineering, green chemistry, and autonomous systems. This funding enables projects that will contribute to sustainable infrastructure, eco-friendly materials, and efficient transportation solutions, underscoring Lakehead's role in technological and environmental advancements.

Key researchers include:

- Dr. Mohammed El-Gendy (Civil Engineering), awarded \$147,500 for work on climate-resilient concrete using fiber-reinforced polymers.



- Dr. Pedram Fatehi (Chemical Engineering), granted \$320,000 to develop lignin-based alternatives for the packaging and cosmetics industrie



- Dr. Xing Tan (Computer Science), awarded \$132,500 for research on algorithms for autonomous vehicle routing.



Additional Discovery Grants were awarded to Drs. Mitchell Albert, Ahmed Bediwy, Oleksandr Bubon, Philip Fralick, and Yurii Shepelytskyi. Dr. Christopher Murray received a PromoScience Grant for the Farm Lab project, supported by co-applicants Dr. Ellen Field and Jacob Kearey-Moreland

Lakehead in the News - Media Highlights

High marks for LU in MacLean's university ranking

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/high-marks-for-lu-in-macleans-university-ranking-9647345>

Fresh food market at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay aims to address food insecurity

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/lakehead-fresh-market-1.7360046>

Lakehead University Bora Laskin Faculty of Law students learn from the land

<https://anishinabeknews.ca/2024/09/27/lakehead-university-bora-laskin-faculty-of-law-students-learn-from-the-land/>

Expo held for seniors to help guide a healthy, fulfilled lifestyle

<https://barrie.ctvnews.ca/expo-held-for-seniors-to-help-guide-a-healthy-fulfilled-lifestyle-1.7076174>

Lakehead challenge offers chance to use NASA data, address real-world issues

<https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/lakehead-challenge-offers-chance-to-use-nasa-data-address-real-world-issues-9588991>

Lakehead hosts Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony

<https://www.tbnewswatch.com/success/lakehead-hosts-indigenous-veterans-day-ceremony-9783890>

Lakehead University Receives \$560K for World's Largest Soil Testing Facility, Led by Engineering Professor Eltayeb Mohamedelhassan

Lakehead University has secured nearly \$560,000 in funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to develop the world's largest soil testing facility. The project will be led by Dr. Eltayeb Mohamedelhassan, assistant dean and professor at the university's Faculty of Engineering. Dr. Mohamedelhassan explained that the facility would enable advanced research on soil strength, particularly for infrastructure projects like railways and deep mines.

The funding was announced by Kevin Holland, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Thunder Bay-Atikokan. Holland emphasized the importance of this project in helping regional industries, such as engineering and mining, by providing vital data on soil strength and load-bearing capacity.

The initiative reflects Lakehead University's commitment to innovation and industry partnerships, positioning it as a leader in advancing research that supports critical infrastructure development in Northwestern Ontario.



Mr. Norm Jaehrling, Chair Supercom Industries, Mr. Rob Frenette, Managing Director TBT Engineering, The Hon. Kevin Holland, MPP, Lakehead University: Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice Chancellor, Dr. Andy Dean, Vice President of Research and Innovation, Dr. Eltayeb Mohamedelhassan, Assistant Dean & Professor, Civil Engineering

Respectfully submitted.

Dr. Gillian Siddall
President & Vice-Chancellor