



## Report on the May 5, 2026 Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) Meeting

**From:** Marcie Morrison - Associate University Secretary

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**OIEC Members:** *Precious Anderson - Member-At-Large (Chair); Dr. Gillian Balfour - Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Lakehead University); Denise Baxter - Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives (Lakehead University); Charles Brown - Member At Large; Paul Capon - Matawa First Nations; Tammy Chamberlain - Indigenous Student Member (Orillia); John Dixon (Delico Anishinabek Family Care); Tyler Goode - Indigenous Student Member (Thunder Bay); Chief Melvin Hardy (Anishinabek Nation, North of Superior Region); Wendy Houston - Member-At-large; Arlene Merkley - Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council; Michael Nitz - Lakehead University Board of Governors; Dr. Sharla Peltier - Indigenous Faculty Member (Lakehead University); Senator Grant Robbins (Elder, Non Voting); Dr. Linda Rodenburg - Orillia Principal (Lakehead University); Dr. Gillian Siddall - President and Vice-Chancellor (Lakehead University, Non Voting); Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay - Metis Nation of Ontario (Vice-Chair); Dr. Anita Vaillaincourt (Chair of the Ogimaawin Committee-Internal)*

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The OIEC held a virtual meeting on May 5, 2026.

The agenda included the following topics:

### **Sharing Circle**

Members were invited to share information about projects, work, accomplishments, concerns, upcoming events, etc., happening within their organizations and/or departments. It was acknowledged and appreciated when the Department's Deans appeared with the Vice Provost as the Indigenous Student visit to campus.

In addition, the group discussed ongoing challenges in northern communities, emphasizing the importance of reinstating immersion programs and adopting community-based approaches to support the preservation of Indigenous language and culture. Suggestions included enhancing Lakehead's Keewatinase Indigenous Teacher Education Program by expanding community-based delivery models—similar to those offered in the past—and strengthening its focus on preparing graduates to effectively teach Indigenous languages. Members acknowledged these concerns and identified opportunities for follow-up and collaboration. The discussion also explored ways to further enhance the Indigenous student experience, including more intentional supports throughout the student journey. A good discussion was held with faculty on both their contributions to Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) and heeding calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation on Indigenous Education training in all its forms.

### **Approval of the 2026-2028 OIEC Meeting Schedule**

The OIEC reviewed the proposed 2026-2028 meeting schedule. The Secretary will work with the Chair to make adjustments to the start time and end time of meetings. The Council agreed to approve the proposed schedule via email before the term ends June 31, 2026.

### **Review of Lakehead's Official Traditional Land Acknowledgement, continued**

The Council was presented with a revised version of the land acknowledgement that has gone through consultation with the Ogimaawin-Indigenous Committee-Internal and Indigenous faculty and staff. Some additional amendments were recommended for consideration. A final version will be shared with the Council via email for endorsement.

### **Policy Review Engagement**

In alignment with the University's Policy Governance Framework, as part of the policy review process for University-wide policies, the OC-I and the OIEC will be engaged during the review cycle for some policies, with the intention of decolonizing University policies and procedures by having them reviewed through an Indigenous lens. Members had the opportunity to provide feedback on the following policy:

- Students at Risk Policy

All feedback will be shared with the policy owner(s) for consideration during the regular review process.

### **Updates and Informational Items Received**

- President's May 2026 Report
- Update from the Ogimaawin Committee-Internal
- Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Report from the Board of Governors
- Report from the Senate
- Notice of Reappointment (adopted by the Board of Governors on March 27, 2026)
  - *MOVED to re-elect Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay as the Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council Member, for a 3-year term, commencing at the close of the 2026 Annual Meeting.*

### **Orientation for New and Current Members**

Some members participated in the OIEC orientation, which had been postponed earlier in the year due to unforeseen circumstances.

The next virtual OIEC meeting is scheduled to take place on October 5, 2026.