



**President's Report to  
Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council**

**January  
2021**





## Office of the President

### Lakehead University's 2020 Report to the Community celebrates Hope and Resilience

Lakehead University launched its online 2020 Report to the Community "Hope and Resilience" website, featuring stories and videos celebrating inspirational achievements by students, alumni, and researchers.

Lakehead's President & Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Moira McPherson, said, "Our 2020 Report to the Community is about hope and resilience, and about celebrating our students, faculty, staff, researchers, and alumni who contribute so much to our communities.

"We invite our students, alumni, and friends around the world to experience our online annual report and to join us in celebrating what we have all achieved together," she added.

The website [hopeandresilience.ca](https://hopeandresilience.ca) shares annual updates on information about the University, presents the University's impacts on the regions around its Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses, and highlights the achievements by students, faculty and alumni from around the world.

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



### Fall 2020's Virtual Open Houses

On October 24 and December 9, 2020, we were thrilled to welcome more than 1,000 prospective students to Lakehead University's first ever Open Houses hosted in a virtual format. Events on both days included visitors being able to explore our comprehensive academic programs and world-class facilities through virtual campus tours; take part in video or text chats with academics, staff, and current students; and watch exclusive on-demand content about all things Lakehead – including in-depth looks into our programs, accommodation, scholarships and more.





## Lakehead University welcomes new Dean, Faculty of Engineering



On December 2, 2020, Lakehead University announced that **Dr. Janusz Koziński** has been named as Lakehead University's next Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

Koziński is a globally-trained higher education leader, multidisciplinary researcher, creative thinker, arts enthusiast and entrepreneur, who brings international experience from pioneering academic institutions in Canada, the United States and Europe.

Prior to joining Lakehead, Koziński was the Founding President of the New Model Institute for Technology & Engineering in the United Kingdom and served as Founding Dean of the Lassonde School of Engineering in Toronto, a brand-new professional school with a mission to confront the complex challenges with creativity, compassion and a collaborative spirit. He was also formerly the Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

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## 2020 virtual Holiday Gathering for University community and their families

On December 17, our Staff and Faculty Holiday Gathering was held virtually in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Emceed by Frank Cappadocia (Associate Vice-President, Administration, Orillia Campus), the event featured a live holiday greeting from President McPherson and other staff and faculty, musical performances by students and staff, and prize giveaways announced by Santa. A fun time was had by all 263 guests.

A special thanks to everyone who helped organize this event, our holiday greeting, and the gifts to children: Holiday Planning Group in Orillia and Thunder Bay, External Relations, TSC, Conference Services, Physical Plant, Stan and the Print Shop Staff, Elder Trish, Dean Jobin-Bevans, Orillia and Thunder Bay Bookstore Staff, and, of course, Santa (Bruce).





## Academic Excellence

### ***Research Infosource* ranks Lakehead University among Canada's Top Universities**

On December 9, 2020, *Research Infosource* named Lakehead the number two university in Canada in the undergraduate category of its annual 'Research University of the Year' assessment. Lakehead was ranked in the top spot for the previous five years — the first time an institution in *Research Infosource's* undergraduate category was ever ranked 'Research University of the Year' five years in a row.

Lakehead's placement among the top of the country's undergraduate universities category is based on the university standing out on a balanced scorecard of research inputs and outputs, according to the annual ranking of Canada's Top 50 Research Universities by *Research Infosource*, Canada's source of research and development intelligence.

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### **International student receives Newcomer Recognition Award for Service Excellence**

In November 2020, Orillia student **Rudy Grewal** received the County of Simcoe's Newcomer Recognition Award for Service Excellence. Rudy graduated in 2020 from our HBASc-Interdisciplinary Studies program and is currently in the 1-year HBSW program. Throughout his studies, Rudy has been an active student in diversity and human rights initiatives, Lakehead University International, and many other departments. Off campus, he supports local initiatives throughout his community.

### **BEd Student Awarded Ontario College of Teachers Primary/Junior Scholarship**

Congratulations to **Melena Hope** (PhD, BEd Primary/Junior teacher candidate, Orillia), who has been awarded the Ontario College of Teacher's Scholarship award for the Primary/Junior division. This OCT award is granted to individuals who "demonstrate a high level of preparedness for teacher education through examples of community involvement, background and life experiences."



Melena, who has spent her whole life in education, received a BFA Honours degree at York University and then travelled abroad to obtain a MA and PhD in art history at the University of London, at the Courtauld Institute of Art in England. This was followed by a two-year post-doctoral fellowship. In addition to her strong background in education, Melena has also volunteered and worked with children in various capacities, including teaching art lessons and contributing her time to her local parent council by painting a mural at a local school and coordinating fundraising initiatives, among other activities.



## TALL Programming to launch in Thunder Bay

The Department of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) was successful in obtaining funds from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation for two projects under the very successful Third Age Learning programming based in Orillia. Dr. Linda Rodenburg, the Director of CELL, received \$5,000 from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation General Fund to expand TALL programming to Thunder Bay and \$3,350 from the Dr. S. Penny Petrone Fund to help us make the programming accessible to all.

The department also received a \$2000 grant from the Community Foundation of Orillia and Area for a pilot project that enables the program to bridge Ontario Master Naturalist Program material for the Special High Skills Major programming with the Simcoe County District School Board.

In other "good news", more than 100 people will participate in "12 Days of Learning" Programming run by CELL throughout the month of January. This programming, designed to demonstrate the potential breadth of lifelong learning opportunities and also link to local businesses, involves courses in everything from "Birding in your Backyard" to "The Perfect Steak" to "It's Puzzling!: the history of Puzzles and how they make your brain work". You can check these out [here](#). Alumni, staff, and student discounts are available to all staff, faculty, and students, to invigorate our sense of academic community and love of lifelong learning on campus.

## Lakehead University announces one new Canada Research Chair and four renewals

**Dr. Lindsay Galway**, an Associate Professor in Health Sciences, has been named Canada Research Chair in Social-Ecological Health. She, her partners, and team will investigate the impacts of climatic and environmental change on health and well-being; use place-based approaches to respond to, and address, climatic and environmental change in ways that promote sustainability, health, and social justice; and support integration, interdisciplinary research, and intersectoral action through methodological and practical innovations.

Using an interdisciplinary, applied, and community-engaged approach, Dr. Galway and her research partners will advance the emerging field of planetary health and inform public policy and action in Canada and beyond.

The Canada Research Chairs Program also announced renewals for Dr. Chris Mushquash, Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction; Dr. Michael Rennie, Chair in Freshwater Ecology and Fisheries; Dr. Matthew Tocheri, Chair in Human Origins; and Dr. Pedram Fatehi, Chair in Green Chemicals and Processes.

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# Social Responsibility

## Truth and Reconciliation training modules launched

With the fifth anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in December 2020, the Lakehead University President's Council for Truth and Reconciliation posted to our website a series of special training modules that encourages discussion on social inclusion, Indigenous culture, and holistic approaches to dialogue in Thunder Bay and Simcoe County.

The series begins with a focus on worldviews, and continues with themes such as history, literature and international protocols, each building upon the previous to encourage strong understanding. An important aspect of these modules is their relevance to Lakehead's geographies, situating the topics in the places of Thunder Bay and Orillia and upon the Indigenous territories on which the campuses are located.

The modules include discussions in the following areas:

1. Worldviews and Creation Stories
2. What's History got to do with it?
3. Intercultural and World Literatures
4. Addressing Systemic Racism, Stereotypes, Biases and Beliefs
5. Beyond Indian Residential Schools
6. The History and Impacts of Child Welfare
7. Ethics, Protocols and Research
8. International Protocols, National Studies and the Truth

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*[Click here to view the training modules...](#)*



## Students create unique ecological art exhibit to inspire past, present and future students

Students from the MEd Ecological Consciousness through Embodied Transformation class have created an interesting ecological art exhibit that they hope will spread positivity to current and future Lakehead students as well as alumni.

The project aimed to advocate ecological consciousness and demonstrate the relationship between humans and the natural world. Under the guidance of course instructor Dr. Thomas Puk, 17 students from diverse backgrounds created the exhibit to illustrate their insightful perspectives.

The project primarily involved creating an interactive exhibit composed of individual "petals" and the word "happiness" in six different languages (English, Mandarin, Korean, Hindi, Bangla, and Cornish). The exhibit parts are painted on high-density fibreboard, basically sawdust and glue – a good use of used material.

The stand is made from local cedar, lilac and honeysuckle, all of which were destined to be disposed. The frame edges are from a countertop made from local birch. The maps are out of date maps of the local area from the Geography department's map library. The frame holding the fibreboard is leftover scraps of spruce. The students also used flyers, cardboard, leave pressings, leaves, and bark.

The exhibit includes sub-themes of ecological literacy and reciprocal relationships with natural processes. Through this project, students developed an emotional connection with nature, which they learned in their Master of Education course.

The project was completed on the Thunder Bay campus during the fall, always outdoors, or *Intree*, as they refer to it.





## Canadian Journal for the Study of Adult Education exhibits work by Lakehead students, alum, and faculty



Six Lakehead students and alumni, along with one professor, had their research artwork accepted by the Canadian Journal for the Study of Adult Education, for a juried national virtual exhibition – part of a special issue on Learning and Teaching: Artful Narratives of Transformation.

This vibrant collection of 22 original works includes seven pieces from Lakehead University and offers a diversity of glimpses into the topic of teaching, learning, and transformation. Taken together, the works create a multi-textured, integrated depth of possibilities for considering our roles as teachers and learners in this time that cries out desperately for large-scale transformations.

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

## Local and Global Partnerships

### CALAREO Receives Outbound Student Mobility Innovation Fund Grant from Universities Canada

The Canada and Latin America Research & Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) Consortium has been awarded a \$31,000 grant from Universities Canada under its Outbound Student Mobility Innovation Fund to study barriers faced by Canadian students to participating in mobility to Latin America.

The CALAREO Secretariat, based at Lakehead University, will coordinate the collaborative research project with Vancouver Island University, Carleton University, and Memorial University of Newfoundland to conduct a survey of students at these four institutions. The survey will identify barriers to participation, as well as strategies to better communicate about opportunities in Latin America and to support student participation.



## Lakehead Researchers Receive SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants

Through their Partnership Engage Grants (PEG), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) committed to invest up to \$1.5 million to support COVID-19 related projects, at a maximum amount of \$25,000 per project for one year. PEGs provide short-term and timely support for small-scale, stakeholder-driven partnerships.

In December 2020, two Lakehead University researchers (from the Faculty of Business Administration and the School of Social Work) were awarded Partnership Engage Grants COVID-19 Special Initiative grants:

**Dr. Olakunle Akingbola: “COVID-19 and Remote Work in Nonprofit Organizations: The Intersection of Employee Well-being and Community Outcomes” \$24,786**

The primary goal of this partnership project is to understand how, why, and under what circumstances Caribbean African Canadian Social Services (CAF CAN), a nonprofit that provides diverse services to individuals and families in the GTA, adopted remote work during and after COVID-19 and the consequences for employee well-being and the community.

**Dr. Natalya Timoshkina: “COVID-19: The Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Service Provision to Trafficked Persons: Perspectives from Ontario’s Victim Services” \$25,000**

The goal of this project is to engage Lakehead University Orillia in a formal, action-research partnership with a not-for-profit organization North Simcoe Victim Services (NSVS) to determine and address the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on service provision to trafficked persons by Ontario's Victim Services agencies. This project will solidify NSVS' leadership role as a coordinator of information sharing and knowledge exchange between Ontario's Victim Services regarding human trafficking programming, and will help create standardized inter-agency protocols for service provision to TIP victims/survivors in the pandemic and post-pandemic conditions.

The following researchers are also recent recipients of SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants:

Dr. Batia Stolar – Hearing Voices: the Great Grain Era of the Lakehead - \$24,937

Dr. Max Haiven – Thunder Bay Public Library Rematriation Project: Student-let Reports - \$22,950

Dr. Alana Saulnier – Evaluation of the Guelph Police Services’s Body Worn Camera Pilot Project - \$25,000

Dr. Helle Moeller – Adapting the maternal mental health HOPE app for North Western Ontario - \$24,185

Dr. Rebecca Schiff – COVID-19 and Pandemic Planning in the Context of Rural and Remote Homelessness - \$24,740



## Lakehead Thunder Bay and Orillia support local food centres

Lakehead University's Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) presented Making (and Breaking) Bread in support of Shelter House Thunder Bay and The Sharing Place Food Centre in Orillia.

Culinary teacher and cookbook author Claire Tansey, author of *Dinner, Uncomplicated*, shared the secrets of her "No-Knead Bread," demonstrated people can cook the perfect loaf at home during the holiday season.

Dr. Linda Rodenburg, Director of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning, chatted with Chris Peacock, Executive Director of The Sharing Place, and Michelle Jordan, Executive Director of Shelter House Thunder Bay, about the innovative programs that make these food centres central to our communities.

"The pandemic may have made baking bread a popular pastime, but it has also been a challenging and difficult year for many, increasing reliance on our local food centres," explained Rodenburg. "Hosting this event is just one way that the University can give back to our communities this holiday season."

Tickets were \$20 each and include on-demand access to enjoy the documentary film, *Bread: An Everyday Miracle* (2020).

For more information, visit [lakeheadu.ca/cell](https://lakeheadu.ca/cell).

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