



# President's Report to Ojimaawin Indigenous Education Council

President's Report to the Ojimaawin Indigenous Education Council • October 2023

October  
2023







## Office of the President

### Lakehead Thunder Bay's 2023 Convocation

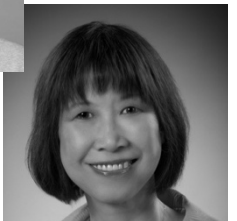
Lakehead University's annual Convocation returned to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium in 2023 to celebrate the milestone achievements of its graduates at three ceremonies on May 25-26. Almost 1,500 graduates are expected to attend Lakehead's Convocation ceremonies.

In addition to celebrating its graduates, Lakehead will honour four exceptional people: The **Hon. Marion Buller**, the CBC's **Bob McDonald**, and filmmaker **Stephen Low** will each be conferred an honorary degree for their extraordinary achievements and remarkable service.

**Vonnie Cheng** will be named a Fellow of the University for her unique contribution to the growth, development, welfare, and well-being of the University.

Each ceremony was followed by a reception for grads and their supporters next to Lake Tamblyn.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)

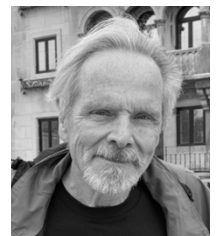


### Lakehead Orillia's 2023 Convocation

Lakehead will celebrate the exceptional achievements of over 500 graduates in Orillia on June 3.

The University will also bestow honours on three influential and highly-respected members of the Orillia community: Juno-award winning music producer and performer **Lance Anderson** will receive an honorary doctorate in music; founding Orillia Campus Principal **Dr. Kim Feddersen** will be named a Fellow of the University; and community advocate and retired teacher **Fred Larsen** will receive the 2023 Civitas Award.

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## Indigenous artwork inspires Lakehead's Nursing and Psychology students

To the delight of students, faculty, and staff, Lakehead's Visual Arts Department, School of Nursing, Department of Psychology, and Physical Plant collaborated to add paintings by Indigenous artists to the Olga Merz School of Nursing Building.

***May-May-Quish #2* by Paul McKay** is one of the works of the 10 paintings on display by artists including Carrienne Agawa, Ringo Fiddler, Paul McKay, and Lloyd Kakekapetum.

The display highlights the commitment of the School of Nursing and the Department of Psychology to support and acknowledge Indigenous contributions in diverse and creative ways.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



## International Alumni Speed Networking Event

On April 20, External Relations and International collaboratively hosted the first International Alumni Speed Networking event at the Orillia campus.

The event welcomed international alumni and graduating students from the Orillia campus for an opportunity to establish social and professional networks to support them in preparing for life after university. It featured social time with refreshments, guest presentations from local immigrants, Economic Development offices, the Alumni Association, Career Services, and Lakehead University International. Following presentations, students had the opportunity to participate in speed networking wherein they had brief conversations with alumni and community service providers using questions and prompts provided at each station.



## Indigenous Initiatives on the Orillia Campus

On May 3, Lakehead's Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator partnered with our Indigenous Curriculum Specialist to offer an Indigenous Initiatives and Teaching Commons open house for faculty and staff — an opportunity to learn more about the resources that are available to them in Orillia through the Office of Indigenous and the Teaching Commons.

On May 5, the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator offered a sacred fire during *Wiigwasitig Gitigaan "Birch Tree Garden" Afternoons* to the Lakehead community on Red Dress Day to honor missing and murdered indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit peoples.

## Lakehead Orillia Hosts Applied Self-Regulation Knowledge Conference

The first-ever Applied Self-Regulation Knowledge (ASK) Conference was held on campus May 11-12, and featured dozens of student, academic, and mental health professional speakers.

Hosted by Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo from the Faculty of Education, the conference brought together the University community and community-based mental health organizations to share information about support that can result in improved mental health outcomes for university students.

Drawing on presentations from students, parent advocates, and scholars, the conference provided a space for the exchange of knowledge about mental health and well-being and evidence-based support with the goal of improving outcomes through knowledge mobilization and dissemination.

[Click here to read the press release...](#)

## 2023 Tamblyn Legacy Tea

Dr. Moira McPherson was pleased to host Lakehead University's annual Tamblyn Legacy Tea, a special occasion to honour donors who have chosen to include Lakehead University in their wills in support of our students now and into the future.

**Gowtham Jaishankar** and Michelle Pacion, both Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree students soon to graduate, spoke at the gathering, sharing their Lakehead experiences with guests.





## Gathering for Faculty and Staff: An Afternoon of Wellness

On April 25, Lakehead's Social Committee hosted its *Gathering for Faculty and Staff: An Afternoon of Wellness*. With the end of another academic year, completion of exams, and graduation ceremonies ahead, the committee wanted to provide an opportunity to rest and relax with our peers and colleagues in a spirited way. The afternoon consisted of food, entertainment, trivia, games, prizes, and many cherished memories that will remain with us for years to come.

A special note of thanks goes out to our trusted partner, Aramark, and Nick Buragina, Aramark Food Services General Manager, for providing the menu and space for our gathering, as well as our highly skilled performers who volunteered their time and talents. These performers included Amani Sloley, an accomplished viola player and a Lakehead University music student. He is the recipient of a prestigious scholarship from Lakehead University's Institute of Italian Studies and will be taking a life-changing trip to Italy this summer to study with world-class musicians at the renowned Cremona International Music Academy. Kathleen Michalchuck, a talented Ukrainian dancer and Lakehead University employee within the Institutional Planning and Analysis department, as well as Cathy Paroschy Harris, Artistic Director of the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group, and alumni of our graduate business program.

Another highlight for both participants and spectators was the Lakehead University trivia game executed in a *Jeopardy!* format. Teams selected from six categories which included: LU Landmarks, LU History, Staff of LU, LU Events/Wellness, Partnerships and Programs, and Who Do I Call?. The game challenged and educated our institutional knowledge in a fun collaborative effort that is bound to leave lasting impressions on all who were present.

Thank you to our social committee for creating an opportunity to reconnect and further demonstrate Lakehead University's commitments to wellness while reinforcing our institutional values of respect, commitment, community, and innovation. The entire committee of volunteers are Lakehead University employees who genuinely believe in the importance of coming together as a community. Their initiative to act on the wants and needs of our employees as we continue to navigate social challenges faced by the pandemic has resulted in greater morale and camaraderie among fellow staff and faculty members.

We look forward to ongoing community building initiatives brought forth by our Social Committee!





## Dr. Gillian Siddall begins term as Lakehead University President and Vice-Chancellor

On July 1, 2023, I began my first term as President and Vice-Chancellor of Lakehead University. During my first two months, I met with many members of our University community and external friends and partners, including Lakehead Chancellor Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell, faculty, staff, and students, as well as elected officials from the regions around both our campuses.

Personal highlights include sitting in on meetings of groups such as the Internal Relations Committee, touring Lakehead's campuses, participating in a campus celebration of retiring faculty and staff at Lakehead Orillia, and singing with colleagues during a summer barbecue and karaoke social at Lake Tamblyn.

An informal introductory event followed by a meet and greet was organized on August 29 in the Agora. Lakehead University's Board of Governors' Chair, Maria Vasanelli, provided words of welcome.



*August 18: President Siddall met with The Honourable Graydon Smith (MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka), Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, before he attended the Conversation Officers of Ontario's Graduation Ceremonies being held at Lakehead Thunder Bay's Avila Centre; also present were Kevin Holland (MPP, Thunder Bay-Atikokan), Dr. Brigitte Leblon (Dean of Lakehead's Faculty of Natural Resources Management), and Mr. Rick Watchorn (Director of Enforcement Branch, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).*

*July 13: President Siddall met with Julie Dabrusin (MPP, Toronto—Danforth) and Marcus Powlowski (MPP, Thunder Bay-Rainy River).*







## Lakehead Rocks Lake Tamblyn

Organized by Lakehead University's Social Committee, Lakehead Rocks Lake Tamblyn featured karaoke, games, a barbecue, food trucks, a visit from Wolfie, and a chance to donate to the LUSU Food Resource Centre. It was also an opportunity for me to mingle with colleagues while performing a few songs at karaoke.

The event raised ~\$300 of food and cash donations for LUSU's Food Resource Centre and allowed faculty and staff to mingle before the new school year began.

The Social Committee provides fun and meaningful opportunities for faculty and staff to connect throughout the year while further reinforcing the University's institutional values of respect, commitment, community, and innovation.



## Lakehead is Canada's top primarily undergraduate university in 2023 THE Impact Rankings

Lakehead University was included in the top 200 global universities in the *Times Higher Education* 2023 Impact Rankings, the fourth year that Lakehead has been recognized as a leading university for its work advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

One of only 26 Canadian universities participating in the rankings, Lakehead is the highest ranked university in North America with fewer than 9,000 students and Canada's top ranked primarily undergraduate university. Of significant note is Lakehead University's achievement for the fourth year in a row of being included among the top 10 per cent of all the world's ranked universities in terms of its social impact.

The Impact Rankings measure the societal impact of universities by evaluating an institutions' success in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). For the fourth year in a row, Lakehead has been ranked as one of the top universities in the world contributing to clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, elimination of hunger, reduced inequalities, good health and wellbeing, sustainable life on land and below water.

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings measure the impact universities make in the areas of poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and peace and justice. View the Lakehead University Times Higher Education profile [here](#).

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



## Food Security Committee recognizes the important work of Stan Nemec

On June 28, the Planning Team of the Food Security Committee recognized **Stan Nemec**, Manager of Printing and Mail Services, for his tireless efforts to support student food security at Lakehead University.

For many years Stan has led the annual departmental food drive in support of the LUSU Food Bank, now known as the LUSU Food Resource Centre.

Through his participation in countless Lakehead Community Council and Lakehead Social Committee events, Stan has worked to raise awareness of student food insecurity and has championed donations for the Food Resource Centre and other student food initiatives.

Most recently, Stan helped to organize food donations for the LUSU Food Resource Centre during the recent Summerfest 2023 gathering on campus, part of the ongoing effort to support student health and wellness by members of the Lakehead University Social Committee.

The Food Security Committee wishes to thank Stan for being a Student Food Security Champion!



*Stan Nemec recently received an award from the Planning Team of the Food Security Committee, presented by Cheryl D'Angelo, Director, Student Health and Wellness; Sierra Garofalo, Director of Food Security at LUSU, and Aimee Jaun, Associate Vice-Provost, Students.*





## Glenda Tibe Bonifacio named Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities

**Dr. Glenda Tibe Bonifacio** will join Lakehead University as the new Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities on November 1, 2023.

Dr. Bonifacio is currently Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Lethbridge and a research affiliate of the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy. She completed her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at the University of the Philippines and earned her PhD from the University of Wollongong in Australia.

In addition to holding several administrative and governance roles at the University of Lethbridge, Dr. Bonifacio is a community-engaged scholar working in local and global contexts. Her research centres on the intersections of gender, migration, and disaster in island countries in Asia and the Pacific region. She is a Visiting Scholar with the University of the Ryukyus, an Honorary Research Fellow of the Network for Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) hosted by Hiroshima University, and the recipient of the 2022 international research fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). She is also a member of the International Advisory Board of the Small Island Cultures Research Initiative (SICRI).

During her time at the University of Lethbridge, Dr. Bonifacio has been involved in the work of institutional transformation around issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion on campus. She is an elected member of the faculty association's Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee and in 2016 she co-founded the Support Network for Academics of Colour Plus (SNAC+) composed of diverse students, staff, faculty, and community members to promote equity, racial justice, and inclusion on campus and beyond. She also served as a racialized member of the Equity Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

Orillia was the first place she visited in Canada as a member of the Task Force for Youth Concerns of the Asia Alliance of YMCAs for the International Youth Year over 30 years ago.

Dr. Bonifacio succeeds Dr. Betsy Birmingham who has served as dean since July 2018.

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## School of Nursing wins Food Drive Challenge with the LUSU Food Resource Centre

The LUSU Food Resource Centre (FRC) is a Lakehead University Student Union student centre that provides Lakehead University students with emergency food support, food-related education, and events.

Students who are experiencing food insecurity can access our emergency grocery pick-up program once every two weeks. The LUSU FRC also runs programming including the 'People's Potato' which offers free hot lunches to students; 'Chopped U' cooking classes; and the 'Good Food Box' which is a community program that provides individuals with fresh fruits and vegetables at a subsidized rate. Student food insecurity is a growing problem at Lakehead University. Over the 2022-2023 school year, almost 1 in 5 Lakehead University students in Thunder Bay accessed the LUSU FRC's emergency food support at least once throughout the year\*.

To help support students and keep the shelves stocked, the LUSU FRC organized the Annual Departmental and Food Drive Challenge. University departments were asked to donate food items.

The food drive challenge was very successful, with over 2,700 food items donated! We are very happy to announce that the School of Nursing has come first place in the competition with over 544 food items donated! This was followed by Institutional Planning and Analysis and Indigenous Initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Faculty and Departmental Food Drive Challenge. Thank you all for your generous support and passion in supporting students experiencing food insecurity!

Want to donate but aren't sure which food items are needed?

Non-perishables (e.g., canned beans, canned tuna, dried lentils, rice, canned vegetables, etc.) Fresh fruits, vegetables, bread, eggs, and other produce Frozen vegetables, fruits, and meats. Please note: We cannot accept items past expiration or best before dates. Thanks again to the School of Nursing and the Lakehead community for assisting our students!\* Based on the average student enrolment in Thunder Bay from 2011-2021.







## **Aramark joins Second Harvest Food Rescue App in Support of the LUSU Food Resource Centre.**

Lakehead's division of Aramark continues to support students on campus through their leadership in food donation. Aramark provides a soup lunch weekly to students via the Food Resource Centre, sponsors two full meal plans for students in the World University Service of Canada Student Refugee Program, and is now expanding upon these efforts.

To mark the significance of the C2U Expo being held at Lakehead from June 5-8, Aramark coordinated regular food donations to the Food Resource Centre by way of Second Harvest's Food Rescue App. The donations will support emergency food access for Lakehead students and promote a more sustainable campus by reducing waste.



## **Orillia Campus Welcomes 2 Unique Cohorts**

On July 4, the Orillia campus welcomed two cohorts of unique students to our campus with an orientation and day of connections. The 1-year intensive Social Work program and the Education Tech program students were given tours of campus, connections to services for when the need arises, and a chance to meet as many staff as possible.

## **Orillia has Pride!**

On June 28, Orillia staff, students and even a few special guests gathered at the cafeteria for an event to celebrate diversity on our campus. Attendees were treated to delicious 'mocktails' and pizza and some lawn games on a beautiful sunny afternoon. Several booths were also set up featuring a variety of informative topics as well as some Pride themed arts and crafts.



## Indigenous Initiatives on the Orillia Campus

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia) partnered with Student Health and Wellness to offer Wiigwasitig Gitigaan “Birch Tree Garden” Afternoons. This is an opportunity for students to participate in gardening and join in on various cultural initiatives in the Medicine Wheel Teaching Garden and the Three Sisters Garden every Friday afternoon from May to August.

Indigenous Initiatives partnered with the Office of the Principal and the department of Student Health & Wellness to Honour & Harvest Wiigwasitig ‘Birch Tree’ on June 8, 2023.

This day included harvesting the birch tree on campus with Amik Tree Services; the Birch Tree & Her Medicines teaching with Luana Harper Shirt and Kanzee Gitimido; and harvesting birch bark with Kyle Sauvé.

On June 18th, community members gathered to raise the tipi and learn together.

On August 26-26, the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator and Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives - with the support of many volunteers – represented Lakehead at the Chippewas of Rama First Nation Pow Wow. For the first time, our Interim Principal, Dr. Linda Rodenburg, participated in the Grand Entry alongside Gimaa Ted Williams.

[Click here to read the press release...](#)







## OUF 2023

Lakehead University, once again, pulled out all the stops to host another exceptional booth at the 2023 Ontario Universities' Fair at Toronto's Metro Convention Centre.

I had the pleasure of meeting the team that put up our booth and spent hours and days meeting prospective students and their parents, answering questions about Lakehead, and helping present our university as a valued opportunity and choice for many who never considered pursuing their post-secondary studies in places like Thunder Bay and Orillia.

Pictured at right are several of our hard-working Lakehead ambassadors with **Minister Jill Dunlop** who stopped by our booth for a visit.



## Career Services & Co-op

September and October were busy for the Lakehead Orillia Career Services and Co-op team, as we welcomed new members and welcomed students to campus. Some highlights included “Seeking Employers” on October 4, an event which included 20 employers who participated in speed networking. Hosted in partnership with County of Simcoe and City of Orillia Economic Development, this informal, discussion-based evening saw 23 students preparing to graduate this year connecting one-on-one with employers to explore careers available in Simcoe County.

Career Services also led a workshop for students from Georgian College and Lakehead University in Day 2 of the Manufacturing & Innovation Summit (MIS) on October 17. This innovative opportunity is the first attempt by Research & Innovation and Career Services to collaboratively organize an extracurricular field trip on career and industry exploration for students at Orillia campus, and it was a great success.



## Lakehead University's Homecoming Weekends

This year's Alumni Homecoming Weekends were the biggest event of the year. From socials and reunions to health and wellness sessions and sporting events, Homecoming Weekends offers something for everyone.

**Lakehead Orillia's weekend** kicked off with an Alumni Board dinner on the Friday night, with about 40 alumni and friends gathered for a Pub and Games Night that evening, enjoying 'Minute to Win It' games and a live band. Events continued throughout Saturday, with five simultaneous Escape Rooms on the Orillia campus hosted by faculty and staff. About 30 Alumni competed to solve the interdisciplinary "Degree Dilemma"!

Saturday evening saw 90 alumni and guests gather for our annual *Lakehead Celebrates* dinner — an event that was hosted in Orillia for the first time ever and, going forward, will alternate from campus to campus each year. Awards were presented in various categories, and our new President Dr. Gillian Siddall was recognized as an Honourary Alumni.

**Lakehead Thunder Bay's weekend** began with a Kick-Off Party hosted by our local Thunder Bay Alumni Chapter at Goods & Co. Market, where alumni and friends enjoyed an evening of camaraderie, entertainment, food, and giveaways. Homecoming Weekend also marks the kick-off to the Thunderwolves Hockey season at Fort William Gardens. Following a stellar '22/'23 year, the community partook in an afternoon Street Party that included live music, games, food, and much more at Fort William Gardens.



*President Siddall was made an honorary Lakehead alumnus at the Lakehead Orillia Alumni Homecoming Dinner. To her right is Paul Popo-Ola, Lakehead Alumni Board Vice-President, and to her left, Dr. Linda Rodenburg, Interim Principal, Orillia Campus.*



*On September 14, over 200 Lakehead alumni gathered to cheer on the Blue Jays, taking part in an alumni event that saw people gather from numerous universities and colleges across the region. Many thanks to event organizer **Jacquie Kent**, pictured here with Lakehead Orillia Principal, **Dr. Linda Rodenburg**.*





## Truth and Reconciliation events throughout September

Organized by the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Lakehead University hosted a series of Truth and Reconciliation-themed events in September that honoured survivors of residential schools along with their families and the children who didn't return home.

In Thunder Bay, Lakehead University representatives raised a National Truth and Reconciliation flag on Thursday, Sept. 7 on the steps outside the Agora.

The Survivors' Flag is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour residential school survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada.

Each element depicted on the flag was carefully selected by survivors from across Canada, who were consulted in the flag's creation.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



*Lorne Clifford, Director of Security Services at Lakehead, and Elder Catherine McGuire, raise the Survivors' Flag outside of Lakehead Thunder Bay's Agora*

## Athletics and Recreation

Orillia Athletics & Recreation was pleased to share that its outdoor rink has been upgraded with a sport court surface to support activity year-round. This was completed, in part, with the assistance of a gift from the estate of the late President and Vice Chancellor Dr. Fred Gilbert, someone who valued the importance of athletics within a university experience.

Orillia Athletics & Recreation also unveiled a new feature mural in Simcoe Hall showcasing student-athletes and promoting athletics at Lakehead. The mural includes a section for the Lakehead Orillia Athletics Wall of Fame.

During Homecoming, the department announced its first inductee, Lakehead graduate **Breann Sharma** (pictured at the event). Read more about Breann's accomplishments on the [Orillia Athletics & Recreation website](#).



## David Johnston's fireside chat at Alumni Association's AGM

**The Right Honourable David Johnston** headlined a fireside chat at the Lakehead University Alumni Association's annual general meeting on October 2 in Lakehead Thunder Bay's Agora. His visit included a lunch with several internal and external community guests in the Office of the President.

Canada's 28th Governor General discussed his most personal and timely book to date, *Empathy*, written with author Brian Hanington with a foreword by The Honourable Rosalie Abella.



Released in January, the book describes the challenges currently faced by countries around the world. As the world stumbles through the most severe pandemic of the last century, threatened by teetering economies, torn by political division, separated by unequal access to resources, and wrestling with issues as diverse as racism, gender, cybercrime, and climate change, the nations that best adapt and prosper are those in which empathy is fully alive and widely active.

Written for a post-pandemic world, *Empathy* is a book about learning to be empathetic and then turning that empathy into action. Based on Johnston's personal experiences, the book explores how awakening to the transformative power of listening and caring permanently changes individuals, families, communities, and nations.

Johnston is chair of the Rideau Hall Foundation, and advisor at Deloitte and at Fairfax Financial Holdings. A graduate of Harvard, Cambridge, and Queen's universities, he was president of the University of Waterloo, principal of McGill University, and dean of Law at Western University. Johnston is the author or co-author of more than 30 books. He holds honorary doctorates from 36 universities. A Companion of the Order of Canada, he was born in Sudbury, Ont., raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and now lives with his wife, Sharon Johnston, near Ottawa.

Alumni Association President Yolanda Wanakamik moderated the fireside chat with the former Governor General on the topics, stories, and themes in his latest book, *Empathy*.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Bora Laskin Faculty of Law mural honours residential school survivors and those who did not return

Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law unveiled a mural designed by Neechee Studio that serves to honour the children who did not return home, residential school survivors, and to illustrate the ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation.

The mural, titled *Where the Heart Gathers*, was unveiled on Thursday, Sept. 28.

The event was an opportunity to celebrate the mural and introduce some of the artists, as well as student and administration representatives from the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.



*R to L: Bora Laskin Faculty of Law Dean Julia Hughes; Francine McKenzie; Robin Sutherland, Director of Indigenous Relations; and Corinna McKay and Jada Ferris from Neechee Studio.*

Neechee Studio is a free art and culture program for Indigenous youth ages 14-29 in Thunder Bay, organized by a team of young, aspiring, and professional Indigenous artists. The Faculty of Law is grateful and honoured by their support and efforts on this project.

Immediately following the mural unveiling, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law hosted the annual Every Child Matters March in Waverley Park.

The event recognized and commemorated the legacy of residential schools, providing students, faculty, staff, and other community partners an opportunity to honour and stand in solidarity with residential school survivors.

The event included speakers (Elders, students, staff, faculty), some of whom bravely shared their lived and intergenerational experiences with residential schools. Afterward, all attendees completed a silent march around the block surrounding the Faculty of Law.

The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law received a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage to fund projects and events in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The funding supported all of the day's events, as well as the mural and a traditional feast.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



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*Stan Nemec (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) recently received an award from the Planning Team of the Food Security Committee, presented by Cheryl D'Angelo, Director, Student Health and Wellness; Sierra Garofalo, Director of Food Security at LUSU; and Aimee Jaun, Associate Vice-Provost, Students.*





## Various Presidential Initiatives

### **Collaborative DVM**

Following the government announcement of support for the Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Northern and Rural Practice in April, the University of Guelph and Lakehead University have been taking steps to initiate the program.

Over the summer, a governance structure was established between Lakehead and University of Guelph that includes a number of joint working groups.

In August, Guelph submitted a Request for Substantive Change to their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program to the American Veterinary Medicine Association/Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education. Developed collaboratively with Lakehead, this is the first milestone required towards the development of the Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program.

Preliminary work on the academic program and site selection is currently underway. I visited the University of Guelph on September 21 and met with its President and toured the Ontario Veterinary College.

### **Orillia Expansion**

I am delighted to share that the County of Simcoe has ratified its commitment of \$15 million for the expansion of the Orillia campus. The University will receive approximately \$1.5 million annually for the next 10 years.

This commitment recognizes and lends further momentum to discussions about increasing enrollment and program offerings with our external partners in Simcoe County and internal communities across both campuses of Lakehead university.

### **Gichi Kendaasiwin**

We are continuing to develop strong partnerships with Indigenous groups with a focus on continued joint advocacy for the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre. We recently submitted our formal federal pre-budget submission for supporting Gichi Kendaasiwin and will continue to seek opportunities to advocate for funding for this important project.



### Strategic Dialogue with Minister Jill Dunlop to Explore Lakehead's Multifaceted Regional Impact Park

I engaged in a constructive one-on-one discussion with **The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities**, at Queen's Park on October 17th. Our meeting encompassed an array of vital topics, from Lakehead's influential role in Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County to Lakehead's contributions to economic development and educational accessibility in Ontario. We also delved into ways the Province can bolster Lakehead's pivotal role within the communities we serve, and beyond.



### Queen's Park Event about Ontario's Advanced Manufacturing

At a gathering of the Province's University Presidents at Queen's Park on October 16, I participated in an event called *A Plan for Prosperity: Fueling the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain* which delved into the synergistic opportunities between government, stakeholders, and universities to advance the manufacturing sector throughout Ontario.

### Fueling Ontario's Advanced Manufacturing at Queen's Park Lobby Day

**Dr. Shannon Zurevinski**, an Associate Professor in Geology and Lakehead's NSERC Representative, recently represented Lakehead University at the Council of Ontario Universities' event at Queen's Park. The event, *Fueling the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain: From Critical Minerals to Electric Vehicles and Beyond*, provided a platform for universities to highlight the profound impact of research on economic development.







## Academic Excellence

### Dr. Christopher Mushquash honoured with prestigious Canada Gairdner Momentum Award

On March 31, the 2023 Canada Gairdner Award recipients were publicly announced, and local clinical psychologist **Dr. Christopher Mushquash** is being honoured for his work in Indigenous-led mental health and substance use research.

Dr. Mushquash is Vice President of Research at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), Chief Scientist at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute (TBRHRI), a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, Professor at Lakehead University and NOSM University, and psychologist at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

In his work, Dr. Mushquash investigates Indigenous mental health, substance use, trauma, and general mental wellness. He partners with communities, government and academia and uses evidence-based approaches in alignment with First Nations values to ensure his research and its outcomes are culturally — and contextually — appropriate for people in First Nations, rural and northern communities.

Established in 1957, the Gairdner Foundation's annual awards recognize and celebrate researchers from around the world for their excellence in fundamental research that impacts human health. Over the years, 402 awards have been presented to people from more than 40 countries and of those awardees, 96 have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes. Dr. Mushquash is a recipient of the 2023 Canada Gairdner Momentum Award.

You can find out more about Dr. Mushquash's work at <https://www.christophermushquash.com/>.

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





## Lakehead music student taking the trip of a lifetime

A Lakehead University music student will take a life-changing trip this summer when he travels to Italy to study at the renowned Cremona International Music Academy.

Thanks to a \$5,000 scholarship from Lakehead University's Institute of Italian Studies, third-year music student **Amani Sloley**, who plays the viola, will spend 18 days studying with world-class musicians in the birthplace of the legendary violin maker, Stradivarius.

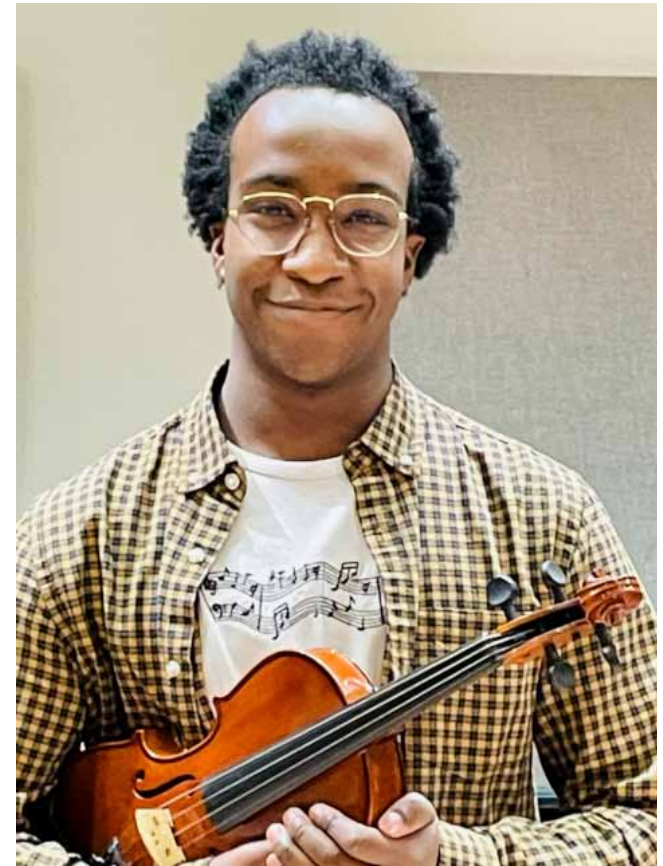
This immersive program offers a wide range of string and wind instruments, piano, voice, composition, and conducting courses.

In addition to working with esteemed faculty members from around the world, Sloley will participate in chamber music coaching and orchestral and ensemble training.

While at Cremona, Sloley wants to improve and expand his skills in performance and composition. During the program, he will participate in many workshops, including sight-reading, technique and interpretation, and orchestra performance. Workshops like these will help enhance his musical abilities.

Sloley moved to Thunder Bay from Brampton. He chose to study at Lakehead University because of the wonderful music facilities and the professors.

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







## Lakehead University researchers secure more than \$650,000 in SSHRC grants

Five research projects at Lakehead University received more than \$650,000 in funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

SSHRC is the federal research funding agency that promotes and supports research and training in the humanities and social sciences.

**Dr. Tamara L. Varney**, Professor of Anthropology, is receiving an Insight Grant for \$376,413 over four years. She and a team of researchers across Canada continue to investigate the mystery of how and why so many Royal Navy sailors suffered from lead poisoning while based in Antigua during the late 1700s and early 1800s.

**Dr. Aislin Mushquash**, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University, and her PhD student Angela MacIsaac are receiving an Insight Grant for \$99,349 over three years to research the relationships between trait victimhood and interpersonal stress and trauma.

**Dr. Beth Visser**, Interdisciplinary Studies and Psychology, and **Dr. Lori Chambers**, Gender and Women's Studies, are co-investigators in the study.

**Dr. Gary Pluim**, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead Orillia, received an Insight Grant of \$51,961 over four years to research a collaborative experience of teaching critical, decolonial global citizenship to Canadian and Ethiopian education students.

Dr. Pluim and co-investigator **Dr. Leigh-Anne Ingram** from the Faculty of Education at Lakehead are collaborating on the research project with Dr. Solomon Belay Faris at Addis Ababa University.

In 2022/23, Lakehead University received more than \$2 million in assistance from the Research Support Fund to support the indirect costs of research, which includes costs for supporting the management of intellectual property, research and administration, ethics and regulatory compliance, research resources, research facilities, and research security.

[Click here to read the media release and full list of recipients...](#)



## Dr. Chris Mushquash Receives 2023 Canada Gairdner Momentum Award

**Dr. Christopher Mushquash**, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction was honoured for his work in Indigenous-led mental health and substance use research with the 2023 Canada Gairdner Momentum Award. The prestigious award was presented to Dr. Mushquash at the Gairdner Awards Gala ceremony in Toronto on October 26.

Dr. Mushquash is Vice President of Research at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), Chief Scientist at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute (TBRHRI), a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, Professor at Lakehead University and NOSM University, and psychologist at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.



In his work, Dr. Mushquash investigates Indigenous mental health, substance use, trauma, and general mental wellness. He partners with communities, government and academia and uses evidence-based approaches in alignment with First Nations values to ensure his research and its outcomes are culturally — and contextually — appropriate for people in First Nations, rural and northern communities.

Established in 1957, the Gairdner Foundation's annual awards recognize and celebrate researchers from around the world for their excellence in fundamental research that impacts human health. Over the years, 402 awards have been presented to people from more than 40 countries and of those awardees, 96 have gone on to receive Nobel Prizes. Dr. Mushquash is one of two recipients of the inaugural 2023 Canada Gairdner Momentum Award, which recognizes exceptional early- to mid-career researchers whose research has a significant impact in the health field now and in the future.

Ahead of the Awards Gala, which was held as part of Gairdner Science Week 2023, Lakehead University and the Gairdner Foundation hosted a celebration in CASES on October 6 to honour Dr. Mushquash on receiving this prestigious award. Representatives who spoke about the impact of Dr. Mushquash's research included Dr. Gillian Siddall, Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Dr. Janet Rossant, Gairdner Foundation President, and Dr. Rhonda Crocker Ellacott, President & CEO of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.





## Social Work Prof Wins Education Award

**Dr. David Tranter**, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work was named the 2023 recipient of the Ontario Principal's Council Outstanding Contribution to Education Award.

In receiving this award, he joins past recipients including The Honourable Murray Sinclair, The Honourable James Bartleman, The Honourable Roy McMurtry, and astronaut Chris Hadfield. The annual award is presented to the "individual or organization who has made an outstanding contribution to education in Ontario through their positive impact on Ontario students or programs for students".

In selecting Dr. Tranter for the award, the Ontario Principal's Council award includes a \$1,000 donation to the charity of Dr. Tranter's choice. He selected Thunder Bay's *Roots to Harvest*.

The award ceremony took place at the Ontario Principal's Council Annual Awards Dinner on October 20 at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Lakehead University graduate student wins prestigious \$150,000 Vanier Scholarship

Lakehead Civil Engineering PhD student **Tristen Brown** has been awarded the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, one of the most prestigious national awards for doctoral students.

Brown will receive \$50,000 per year for three years to support his doctoral studies.

As a PhD student and graduate research assistant in Lakehead's Department of Civil Engineering, Brown is currently undertaking research tackling innovative solutions to overcome the ongoing housing challenges for Indigenous communities throughout Canada subjected to extreme climate conditions.

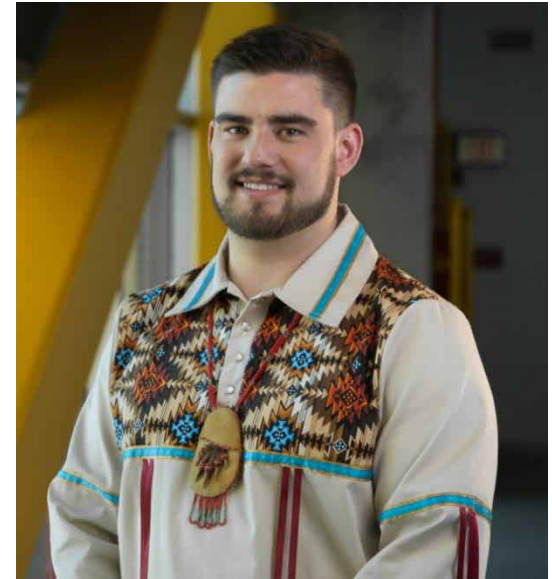
Brown began his studies at Lethbridge College in Alberta before joining Lakehead University via its unique college transfer program for engineering students.

He went on to achieve a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering before beginning his doctoral studies.

Dr. Ahmed Elshaer, Brown's PhD supervisor, praised his exceptional contribution to the work of the Structural and Wind Engineering Research Laboratory at Lakehead.

Across Canada, 166 doctoral students will receive a total of \$24.9 million in support through the Vanier Graduate Scholarship that is jointly funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)







## NSERC providing more than \$1 million to Lakehead University researchers

Professors at Lakehead University are receiving more than \$1 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for exceptional, ground-breaking research that will make a difference.

**Dr. Taryn Klarner** is receiving a five-year Discovery Grant for \$177,500 to explore the specific way the human body's nervous system coordinates the arms and legs during rhythmic movement tasks such as walking and examine the dynamics of coordination at the behavioural level.

An Assistant Professor in Kinesiology, Dr. Klarner's research is divided into three related yet distinct objectives. All objectives are designed to be carried out by trainees in the lab at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

**Dr. Kang Kang** is a Research Assistant Professor in Lakehead University's Biorefining Research Institute who is receiving a five-year Discovery Grant along with a Discovery Launch Supplement – for a total of \$172,500.

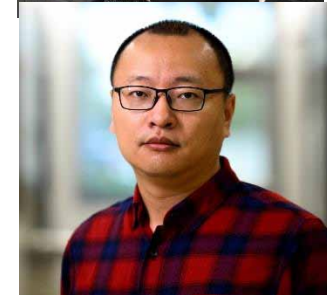
The long-term objectives of Dr. Kang's research are to enhance Canada's waste management and sustainable development strategies by promoting community energy access while contributing to a healthy environment.

**Dr. Abdelhamid Tayebi**, a Professor in Electrical Engineering, is receiving a one-year Research Tools and Instruments Grant for \$121,708 to establish a state-of-the-art research facility for the design and performance evaluation of advanced autonomous navigation systems.

This facility will be a great asset to Lakehead's robotics and aerospace research community.

In 2022/23, Lakehead University received more than \$2 million in assistance from the Research Support Fund to support the indirect costs of research, which includes costs for supporting the management of intellectual property, research and administration, ethics and regulatory compliance, research resources, research facilities, and research security.

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## Researchers at the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity receive \$2.43M SSHRC grant

A new project led by **Dr. Erin Cameron**, adjunct member of Lakehead's Faculty of Education at Lakehead University and Academic Director at the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity at NOSM University, has received a \$2.43-million Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant to address local health priorities.

Dr. Cameron and her team will foster relationships between communities and academics. The project will study how academic institutions can direct their education, research, and service activities to address community needs, both locally and globally. The growing global social accountability research movement urges academics to heed this call.

Dr. Cameron is excited to invest in and strengthen partnerships across institutions, organizations, and communities regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Supported in part by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant of \$2.43-million over seven years, the total project of \$3.2-million focuses on collecting and sharing best practices related to social accountability and scaling existing research projects on social accountability across new sites and settings. The project will also build capacity for socially accountable research. Co-directors in the project, Drs. David Marsh, Joseph LeBlanc, and Alex Anawati, along with a team of over 20 researchers and 12 partner organizations, aim to create and grow a connected social accountability research network.

Established in 2021 as the Centre for Social Accountability, the Dr. Gilles Arcand Centre for Health Equity was born of the immutable conviction that everyone—regardless of circumstance or geography—deserves the dignity of equal access to health-care practitioners who are culturally competent, understand the realities of living in the rural and remote North, and lead with compassion and integrity.

Learn more about the funded project, titled [Community-engaged Research in Education, Advocacy, and system Transformation for advancing health Equity \(CREATE\): Exploring the Transformational Potential of Socially Accountable Research Networks Locally and Globally.](#)

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Doctoral student recipient of 2023 Women's Health Scholars Award

As a growing number of women across Canada and the United States are choosing to not have children, **Erika Puiras'** research aims to shed light on the potential mental health consequences imposed by the stigma associated with being "childfree".

Puiras, a doctoral student in the clinical psychology program at Lakehead University, has been recognized for this work with the 2023 Ontario Women's Health Scholars award, which recognizes ground-breaking women's health research taking place across Ontario universities.

As part of her dissertation, Puiras is studying the experiences of intentionally childfree women and how stigma, including negative societal messages and discrimination, ultimately affects their mental health and overall wellbeing.

Under the supervision of **Dr. Dwight Mazmanian**, Professor in the Department of Psychology, she will explore whether childfree women experience self-stigma and how stigma influences their help-seeking behaviour and trust in health-care systems that have historically stigmatized this population.

Over the next year, Puiras hopes to engage with over 1,000 childfree women across Canada and the United States through questionnaires and in-depth interviews to learn more about their journey, hear about the stigma they've experienced and how it has impacted them as individuals.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Lakehead University is introducing a new online option for attending law school

As part of Lakehead's ongoing commitment to innovative education, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law is launching the 1L Online Intensive program. This new cohort of students will pursue their first year of law school through a combination of online learning and four weeks of intensive, in-person, land-based learning.

The 1L Online Intensive cohort will complete their second and third year of the Juris Doctor program in Thunder Bay, alongside their classmates who completed their first year in-person.

This new initiative will open spots to an additional 25 students to the full-time Juris Doctor program at Lakehead.

The 1L Online Intensive cohort will commence their first week of law school alongside their in-person peers, engaging in a blend of orientation and immersive land-based experiences while learning the foundations of Canadian Law.

Subsequently, the 1L Online Intensive students will participate in a second week of exclusive land-based learning in the Thunder Bay area. Following these two weeks of land-based learning, the 1L Online Intensive cohort will continue the semester online from the comfort of their homes.

The course curriculum for the 1L Online Intensive program aligns with the in-person cohort, encompassing the same mandatory first-year courses.

During the winter semester, the 1L Online Intensive cohort will return to the Thunder Bay area for two weeks, to participate in IPC assignments and further land-based learning, fostering meaningful interactions with Indigenous communities and partners.

Upon completion of their Online Intensive first year, students will transition to join their in-person classmates in second year, completing the remaining two years of the Juris Doctorate program in person.

For more details on 1L Online Intensive and the admissions process, please visit this [page](#).

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



*Dr. Julia Hughes, Dean, Bora Laskin  
Faculty of Law*





## Lakehead University receives Ministry approval for Mechatronics Engineering program

Lakehead University's Faculty of Engineering has received approval from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to offer a new Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) program in Mechatronics Engineering for undergraduate students.

The inaugural cohort of Mechatronics Engineering students will begin their studies at Lakehead's Thunder Bay, Ont. campus in September.

Mechatronics Engineering is a new and rapidly growing multi-disciplinary branch of engineering that is at the intersection of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Software Engineering, and Computer Science. It is related to the design and fabrication of computer-controlled electromechanical systems, such as robots, drones, and autonomous vehicles.



The creation of the Mechatronics Engineering program at Lakehead has been spearheaded by **Professor Wilson Wang**, a faculty member in the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, who will now serve as the program's coordinator.

The program has been designed to prepare students to create technologies that support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

With sustainability and co-op at its core, this program will integrate business, law, and public safety into the learning experience – giving students a deeper and broader insight to accompany their engineering expertise.

Students have the option to enrol directly from high school, or via Lakehead's unique college transfer pathway that gives engineering technology diploma graduates the opportunity to complete their BEng degree in just two years.

Click [here](#) for more information about Lakehead's Mechatronics program.

**Click here to read the media release...**



## **CFA Institute recognizes Lakehead University's Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Major program**

Lakehead University has become the latest university to be welcomed into the CFA Institute University Affiliation Program.

CFA Institute has recognized Lakehead's Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Major program as incorporating at least 70 percent of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) Program Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK).

The Lakehead program places an emphasis on the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

Entry into the CFA Institute University Affiliation Program signals to potential students, employers, and the marketplace that Lakehead University's Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Finance Major curriculum is closely tied to professional practice and is well-suited to preparing students to sit for the CFA examinations.

Through participation in this program, Lakehead University is eligible to receive a limited number of CFA Program Student Scholarships each year.

The Faculty of Business Administration at Lakehead University is accredited by AACSB and CPA Ontario. The Faculty, and its precursor, the School of Business Administration, has been offering business programming since 1965.

The Faculty offers an Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Administration, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Management, and a Graduate Diploma in Accounting.

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## Next-generation nursing manikin helps train students to save lives

Meet the new CAE simulation manikin that is now helping Lakehead University nursing students prepare for what it's like to save someone's life during a Code Blue emergency.

A Code Blue is called when a patient's breathing or heart stops. Understandably, this can be a high-anxiety moment for learners.

However, thanks to the Nursing Simulation Lab where the new manikin is used, Lakehead University's nursing students can practice their cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and team response in a safe environment.

The School of Nursing has been running simulated Code Blue labs for its final year BScN students since 2009.

With this new, high-tech manikin, students experience fully functioning and changeable vital signs (e.g., breathing, heartbeat, pulse), along with digital eye and pupil reactions. The new manikin offers computerized feedback in real time about the quality and consistency of each student's efforts.

Through the behind-the-scenes activities of the Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator, **Caroline Sabotig**, the manikin can speak with students until the moment they realize they must act fast to save the manikin's life.

With this new manikin, students will know if they are doing compressions properly when performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, also known as CPR, since the manikin indicates has software that provides real-time feedback on the quality and consistency of the resuscitation efforts. The state-of-the-art manikin is compliant with the American Heart Association's cardiac life support guidelines.

This is another example of how Lakehead University is preparing nurses to work in Northwestern Ontario and beyond.

The Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, **Dr. Mirella Stroink**, said they are thrilled to offer this advanced simulation manikin as part of the student-learning experience in Lakehead University's School of Nursing.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



*Fourth-year nursing student Marian Aigbogun, left, demonstrated CPR on Thursday, Aug. 24. Nursing Simulation Lab Coordinator Caroline Sabotig used a tablet to control the manikin and to show Aigbogun if the CPR was effective.*



## Christopher Petersen wins Smythe Award

Recent Lakehead University graduate **Christopher Petersen** was one of three Dallas Smythe Award winners for his paper “Therapy Tech in Surveillant Smart Cities.”

This award, offered by the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR), recognizes the groundbreaking scholarship of Canadian scholar Dallas Smythe. Petersen was able to present his scholarship this July at the IAMCR’s annual conference in Lyon, France.

In recognition of Smythe's work, the Dallas Smythe Award was established by IAMCR for “a paper which combines scholarly excellence with a commitment to developing and extending the critical, innovative and engaged spirit that characterised Smythe’s contribution to media/communications analysis.”



The Smythe Award Committee described Christopher Petersen's paper as: a critique of how the take-up of mental health therapy technologies is exploiting users, engaging them with the features of ‘gamification’ and ‘responsibilization’, at the same time as they surrender their personal data. This is cast in the context of the ‘dataveillance’ of ‘smart cities’, and explored via the case studies of Sidewalk Labs in Toronto, and the Inuit community of Nunavut.

Petersen initially developed his paper in a graduate seminar, “Surveillance and (In) Justice” taught by Dr. Debra Mackinnon, Winter 2023.

Petersen graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Social Justice Studies from Lakehead University and received the 2023 Dean’s Scholar Award in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. His masters research-creation project explored pop music and the problem with the nostalgia industry. He has a BA in Electroacoustic Music Studies from Concordia University, Montreal.

For a complete account of the Smythe award, please visit <https://iamcr.org/awards/smythe-2023-awarded>.





## Lakehead's Dean of Engineering awarded 2023 Gold Medal by Engineers Canada

**Professor Janusz Koziński**, Dean of Engineering at Lakehead University, has received the prestigious Gold Medal Award from Engineers Canada.

The Gold Medal Award, the highest distinction for professional engineers in Canada, recognizes the exceptional achievements of engineers who, through their work and service, have improved the lives of Canadians and others across the world.

Dr. Koziński received the Gold Medal at the Engineers Canada Awards ceremony that took place in Halifax on Thursday, May 25.

Currently Dean of Engineering at Lakehead University, Dr. Koziński is an internationally renowned higher education leader, researcher, and entrepreneur with almost three decades of experience in engineering education across the world.

Before joining Lakehead, Koziński was previously Founding President of the New Model Institute for Technology & Engineering in the UK, Founding Dean of the Lassonde School of Engineering at York University, and Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Lakehead University's Electrical Engineering program scores top marks

Lakehead University's Electrical Engineering degree program has received the maximum possible accreditation from a recent review conducted by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB).

The Electrical Engineering program has received accreditation for a full six years, up to June 30, 2029.

"This accreditation represents a ringing endorsement of Lakehead's Faculty of Engineering. It celebrates our commitment to delivering high-quality professional programs that are academically rigorous and align with the needs of industry," said **Dr. Janusz Kozinski**, Dean of Engineering.

Lakehead's Department of Electrical Engineering offers outstanding undergraduate and graduate education, along with world-class researchers.

"We are very proud to receive this latest approval from our regulatory body," Dr. Kozinski added.

Lakehead's undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering was first established in 1974, and it has achieved accreditation ever since.

The CEAB, part of Engineers Canada, accredits Canadian undergraduate programs in engineering.

Students who receive a degree from an accredited engineering program meet the academic requirements needed to become licensed with Canada's engineering regulators.





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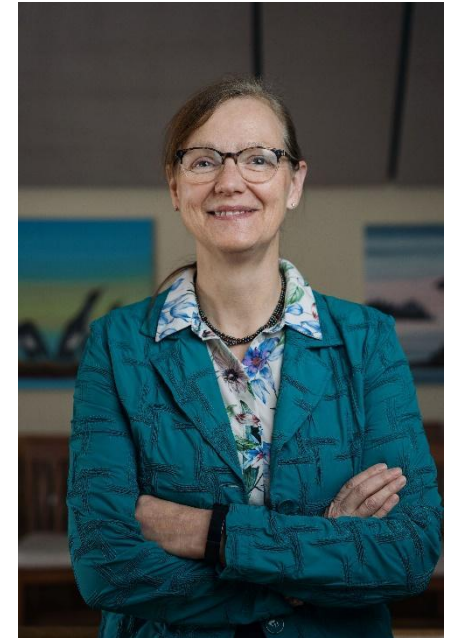
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## Local and Global Partnerships

### Lakehead International Launches New Global ME (Mobility Engagement) Website

Lakehead International's Global Engagement department is thrilled to announce the launch of the new website for the Global ME (Mobility Engagement) Program.

Whether you are a student seeking to expand your horizons and gain a global perspective, or a faculty member looking to engage in international opportunities, this page has something for everyone. With the launch of this new website, we aim to strengthen Lakehead's commitment to internationalization further and highlight accessible and diverse global learning initiatives for our students, staff, and faculty.

The Global ME (Mobility Engagement) Program offers a range of dynamic opportunities to study in different parts of the world, meet new people, and learn about different cultures. This website serves as the starting point for students interested in studying abroad, or for inbound exchange students who are preparing for their journey to Lakehead. On the website, you will find detailed information about the application process, eligibility requirements, and deadlines, making it easier for students to plan for their international experience.

It will also showcase previous students' experiences, including photos and testimonials, to give prospective students a glimpse into what their own Global ME experience could be like. Additionally, the website will highlight Lakehead University's partner institutions around the world, allowing students to explore their options and find the program that best suits their unique interests and academic goals. By launching this website, we aim to make study abroad more accessible and empower students to engage in life-changing experiences that will benefit them personally and professionally for years to come.

Ready to start your journey? [Visit the Global ME \(Mobility Engagement\) website today.](#)





## Holly Prince receiving a Canadian Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award

Lakehead University's **Holly Prince** has been selected to receive the Inclusion Vanguard Award at the annual Canadian Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Award Ceremony on June 1 in Toronto.

Prince is an Anishinaabekwe and a member of Opwaaganisiniing in Northwestern Ontario. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is a PhD candidate in Educational Studies at Lakehead University.

She is the Lead for the Indigenous People's Health and Aging Division at the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health at Lakehead University, where she works as a Project Manager.

A part of her role involves planning, implementing, and evaluating palliative care education and research for Indigenous peoples across Canada.

Her research focuses on decolonial and Indigenist education, Indigenous health, and community-based research. She has devoted the last 20 years to advancing the right of Indigenous peoples' access to culturally appropriate and equitable palliative care and has mobilized her efforts as a national champion of human rights and dignity for people at the end of life.

Prince's work is guided by Elders and Knowledge Carriers and responds to the identified needs of Indigenous communities. It acknowledges that Indigenous peoples must lead the way forward in developing approaches to caring for people at the end of life to achieve equitable and culturally safer care.

She is the Project Lead for the Indigenous Voices: Stories of Serious Illness and Grief project. With guidance from a national Elders and Knowledge Carriers Circle, resources on living with advanced illness, dying, grief and advanced care planning were developed to educate and empower patients, families, and communities.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)







## ONCAT awards \$210,794 to support post-secondary students and pandemic learning challenges

The Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) has awarded over \$560,000 to eight postsecondary institutions in Ontario to develop programs and supports for students impacted by the pandemic.

These projects include summer courses to help students recover pandemic-related academic gaps, coaching and mentorship programs to help students transition to and adjust to postsecondary studies, and specialized supports for Indigenous learners, mature students, and prospective students from historically unrepresented groups.

All are designed to support the successful experience of students whose academic journeys have been disrupted over the last few years.

Led by **Dr. Leigh Potvin** and **Dr. Julie Rosenthal** from Lakehead's School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism, \$98,594 has been awarded for a project to enhance pathway-transfer for Indigenous students in the North with an interest and/or career goals in outdoor recreation, parks and/or tourism.

Participating institutions/partners include Collège Boréal, Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology, Indigenous Tourism Ontario, Destination Northern Ontario, and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation).

Another project led by **Andrea Tarsitano**, Vice-Provost (Students) and Registrar, and **Aimee Jaun**, Associate Vice-Provost (Students), has been awarded \$35,750 to enhance the transition of transfer and mature students to university. A team from both Lakehead campuses will work collaboratively with internal and external partners to develop a seminar course to help students develop awareness of university supports and academic expectations.

Through the Seamless Transfer Program, a third project being led by Tarsitano and Jaun has received \$76,450 for the development of a mature student orientation leaders' model to increase capacity internally by creating a sustainable, broad support network of mentors and leaders.

Working collaboratively with Confederation College, this project will allow for early engagement in building awareness and offering of targeted supports for mature and transfer students in addition to students who face ongoing barriers.

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



## Marcela Garcia Bueno is receiving the Robert Poulin Award for her dedication to Lakehead University

**Marcela Garcia Bueno** is the recipient of this year's Robert Poulin Award, presented to a full-time Lakehead University student for their outstanding citizenship.

She is an international student at Lakehead Thunder Bay who is from Guadalajara, Mexico.

Marcela was admitted into Lakehead's Honours Bachelor of Commerce program in February 2020.

She was awarded one of Lakehead's highest entrance scholarships, which she has kept by maintaining an average greater than 90 per cent during her first three years at Lakehead.

Since 1952, Lakehead University has presented the Robert Poulin Award annually to a full-time student selected by their fellows, the faculty and administration, for contributing most to the welfare of the University through student activities.

Lakehead named the Robert Poulin Award after an outstanding Forestry graduate from the Lakehead Technical Institute who died at the age of 20 due to a workplace accident.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)







## Enactus Lakehead Takes on National Exposition

This past week, the team from Lakehead University took part in the Enactus Canada National Exposition to compete with their project GetFinLit, their Financial Literacy workshop that teaches high school and university students the essentials of Financial Literacy, along with, top job skills. Each year, students from Enactus teams from all over Canada take part in a series of Regional and National challenges. This year marks the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic that teams have had the opportunity to compete in person. This year's National exposition was held in Montreal, Quebec at the Palais de Congrès de Montréal. Teams competed in one of 10 leagues, with the top two teams from each league moving on to the Semi-Finals.

Each year, Enactus Canada also recognizes the commitment and actions of members within the Enactus network. Team President Brandon Rehfuhs was recognized with the Founder's Bursary presented by the John Dobson Foundation recognizing his superior leadership and how he has gone above and beyond to help develop the team this past academic year. Brandon also was recognized with the Enactus Canada Gold Community Service Leadership Award. In addition, Morgan Gordon, the team's Vice-President of Marketing, was recognized with the HSBC Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Award presented by HSBC Bank Canada. Morgan was one of the top 9 award recipients who were selected and recognized at the National Exposition.

Throughout the whole event, participants were able to talk and network with industry professionals and leaders.

Enactus Lakehead would like to thank all of the students, faculty, and staff who have volunteered numerous hours to advise and assist the team throughout all of its activities, including from the Faculty of Business Administration and from Ingenuity. Without the support of these individuals as well as the team's sponsors, inspirational trips like these would not be possible.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Alexis Harvey made important connections at the provincial Three-Minute Thesis Competition

**Alexis Harvey** recently returned to Thunder Bay after placing third in the provincial Three-Minute Thesis Competition held at Queen's University.

Alexis travelled to Kingston in May after placing first in Lakehead University's Three-Minute Thesis Competition during Research and Innovation Week. She said preparing for the competition was daunting, especially since she dislikes public speaking.

The Master of Health Science graduate student's thesis examines how education is helping or hindering the formation of just and socially responsible healthcare providers.

Stemming from her background as a health educator in the state of Alaska and as a former US Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Spain, Alexis's research seeks to uncover wise practices for education and, ultimately, health equity.

After placing first at Lakehead's Research and Innovation Week and receiving the People's Choice Award, Alexis felt proud of her work. She realized that not only did her presentation make sense, it also moved people. To prepare, she worked alongside the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, **Dr. Chander Shahi**, as well as his assistant, Taylor Laughton, to help refine her presentation by doing a mock presentation with them. Dr. Shahi served as a mentor during the preparation phase.

After spending the day before the competition with other participants, Alexis realized how nervous they all were. Describing it as more of a "friendly Ted Talk," Alexis said she was more excited to learn who won the participants' choice award, because that determined who the group felt did the best in relaying their research. Alexis encouraged other graduate students to participate in this event next year if they can, due to the chance to gain public speaking skills in a supportive environment.

Alexis will be defending her thesis later this summer before finishing her master's program.

Press play [here](#) to watch her Three-Minute Thesis presentation at Queen's University.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Canada invests in Thunder Bay projects to clean up and protect the Great Lakes



The Great Lakes are essential to the health and well-being of millions of Canadians, natural ecosystems, and the economy. Protecting them is critical. The Government of Canada remains committed to restoring water quality and ecosystem health in these treasured waters.

On October 10, **the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services**, announced on behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, \$663,500 in funding under the Freshwater Action Plan for six projects that will support region-specific actions to restore water quality and ecosystem health:

- \$230,000 for **Lakehead University** to restore riparian and coastal habitat for fish and wildlife in the Thunder Bay Area of Concern, as well as build features to filter stormwater before it reaches Lake Superior.
- \$108,500 for **Lakehead University** to implement the Thunder Bay Area of Concern Wildlife Habitat Strategy and facilitate community engagement.

These are two of 24 projects recently funded under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative, part of the Government of Canada's Freshwater Action Plan to protect and restore freshwater bodies of national significance. Canada aims to complete all actions to clean up 12 of 14 remaining Canadian Areas of Concern by 2030, complete all 14 by 2038, and meet Canada's phosphorus load reduction targets for Lake Erie by 2039.

These local projects will help to advance Canada's commitments under the Canada–United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Canada–Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





## Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) Programming

Initiated by CELL in partnership with Parks Canada, CELL's "Phragmites Youth Action Project" has enabled 83 Simcoe County high school students to participate in an incredible program combining a 'reach ahead' classroom experience with hands-on experiential learning in the field. This program, made possible with grant funding from the Green Shovels Collaborative administered by Invasive Species Centre, extends the reach of Lakehead's Ontario Youth Naturalist Program (OYNP) for Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) students. Students from Patrick Fogarty CSS, Nantyr Shores SS, Stayner CI, and Georgian Bay DSS together worked to eradicate 662 m<sup>2</sup> of Phragmites from Georgian Bay Islands National Park, which is equivalent to 1.5 NBA Basketball Courts! This result triples the initial target of 175 m<sup>2</sup>.

[Click here to watch the video...](#)

Well over 100 people are currently attending the fall iteration of Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL): "Living a Different Way: The Future of Communities". The series, which opened with a talk from Lakehead's own Dean of Science and Environmental Studies, **Dr. Todd Randall**, covers topics such as creating sustainable communities of the future, NIMBYISM, rethinking seniors' housing, housing future generations, and integrating the global movement of people.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



## International Initiatives on the Orillia Campus

Lakehead University International's Orillia office took part in various orientation-related activities as this semester began, including the New Student Welcome, Lakehead-Georgian Orientation day, and the Campus and Community Fair. Staff not only made students feel welcomed, but also provided information on immigration matters, health insurance, services and programming, and various opportunities to connect on both the Orillia and Barrie campuses.

Some highlights of the latter included a Scout Valley Hike (Sept 22), an International Student Social with **James Aldridge** (Sept 25), a Mid-Autumn Festival event (Sept 29), as well as daily drop-in and immigration advising hours.

On September 5, the Lakehead Orillia's Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator hosted the TRC Survivors Flag Raising for the Orillia campus. [Click here to read the media release.](#)

On September 27, Lakehead welcomed Elder Ernie Sandy for an Elder-in-Residence Tipi Talk & TRC Calls to Action session. Elder Ernie shared a brief history on Canada and knowledge on Truth and Reconciliation. Following this learning opportunity, participants engaged in a TRC Calls to Action activity (planned by Student Affairs) near the tipi and sacred fire. This was coordinated for the audience of students in the Introduction to Education course and Orillia Student Affairs Team; along with the Lakehead community.

[Click here to read the Pres release](#)



## MP Kurek Visits Lakehead University

Battle River-Crowfoot, Alberta Member of Parliament Damien C. Kurek visited Thunder Bay in late July to reach out to stakeholders in the region relating to his portfolio as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee, and as an MP actively interested in agriculture.

During his meetings, Kurek visited Lakehead University twice, once to meet with **Dr. Tarlok Singh Sahota** and again to meet with **Dr. Wensheng Qin**.

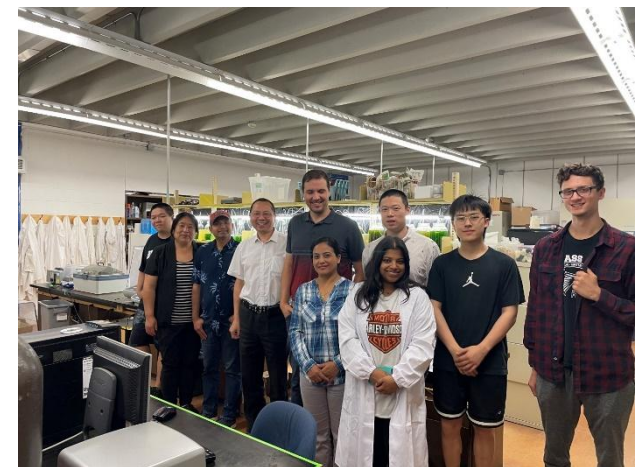
During that week, Kurek's meeting with Dr. Sahota took place at the Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station and included a meeting with Jason Reid, the director of Beef Farmers of Ontario, where they discussed the issues in the sector, as well as the work Dr. Sahota has done on crop and nutrient management practices.

Kurek also met with Dr. Qin and one of his classes at the main campus. During their meeting, Kurek was pleased to learn more about biofuels and bioproducts and discuss how the use of these can be balanced with food security and the productive use of the energy resources already available.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



*(From left to right) MP Damien Kurek meets with Dr. Tarlok Sahota, Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station (LUARS), and Jason Reid, Beef Farmers of Ontario, at LUARS.*







## Lakehead University representatives attended annual Anishnawbe Keeshigun events

Thanks to Lesley Ng of Fort William Historical Park for inviting Clarence Surette (President of the Thunder Bay Chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society) and Jill Taylor-Hollings (President of the Ontario Archaeological Society), both from the Department of Anthropology at Lakehead University, to the annual Anishnawbe Keeshigun events August 19 and 20.

They did flintknapping and pottery workshops while park employees Liam Nicholls and Rowan Patterson demonstrated atlatl (spear) throwing with the visitors.

These events also provided a great opportunity to discuss the importance of archaeology in Northwestern Ontario.



## SES Biotechnology & Allied Sciences Symposium - SESBASS 2023

The Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies is hosting the SES Biotechnology and Allied Sciences Symposium (SESBASS) on September 21, 22, 2023. SESBASS 2023 will be held in FB 2023 in the CASES building at Lakehead University.

We are inviting abstracts in the following areas:

Environmental Biotechnology  
Applied Microbial Biotechnology  
Detection and Bioremediation  
Renewable Green Energy  
Materials Research

Biorefining and Lignin  
Nanostructures  
Medical Innovations  
Medical Imaging  
Digital Health

Bio-inspired Engineering  
AI and Machine Learning  
Biomedical Engineering and Biomechanics  
Rapid testing for novel viral strains

Information about abstract submission and registration can be found on [our website](#).



## Researchers and community partners honoured at C2UExpo Gala Awards

Lakehead University's Offices of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation and Research Services hosted the Community-College-University Exposition (C2U Expo), which is Canada's leading conference on community-based research and community-campus engagement. Supported by Community-Based Research Canada (CBRCanada), the conference brought together approximately 400 community-based organizations, Indigenous groups, researchers and students from academic institutions, grass-root organizations, policy-makers, and knowledge mobilization experts from Thunder Bay, the region, and beyond. Held from June 5-8, 2023 in Thunder Bay, for the very first time in a small university and in a small community, the conference brought new perspectives on the unique challenges of universities and communities in northern rural contexts. Keynote and plenary speakers of international fame included Prof. Maui Hudson from University of Waikato, New Zealand; Dr. Eve Tuck from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto; Liz Weaver from Tamarack Institute; and Norbert Steinhaus from the Wissenschaftsladen Bonn (Wila Bonn – Bonn Science Shop).

Researchers and their community partners were honoured at the C2UExpo 2023 Gala Awards dinner held at Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay on Wednesday, June 7.

**Dr. Scott Hamilton**, Professor in Anthropology at Lakehead University, with **Dr. Jill Taylor-Hollings**, **Clarence Surette** and **Chris McEvoy** from Anthropology, and William Dumas, Knowledge Keeper and main author of the book series Six Seasons of the Asiniskaw Ī thiniwak, received the Indigenous Research Partnership Award from Lakehead University. The Six Seasons project is mainly funded by a \$2.5 million SSHRC Partnership grant, the major objective of which is to support the ongoing work of reclaiming Indigenous languages, histories, and knowledges among the Asiniskaw Ī thiniwak (Rocky Cree).







**Dr. Elaine Wiersma**, Associate Professor in Lakehead University's Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH) and in the Department of Health Sciences; **Dr. Nisha Sutherland**, Associate Professor with the School of Nursing; Carlina Marchese, Knowledge Broker from CERAH; and the North West Dementia Working Group received the Community Engaged Research Award from Lakehead University. Their research explores building capacity to enable people living with dementia to have meaningful participation in their community. For this project, researchers and community partners, the North West Dementia Working Group, used an asset-based community development approach to identify opportunities to strengthen community initiatives and make them inclusive of people living with dementia.

Community-Based Research Canada presented the Excellence in Community-Campus Research Partnership Award to **Dr. Ruth Beatty**, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University; Christina Ruddy from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation; and Colinda Clyne, Anishinaabe kwe, Kitigan Zibi and Coordinating Principal of Indigenous Education for the Upper Grand District School Board. Their project began in 2012 when research teams comprising Anishinaabe and Métis leaders, artists, and educators, as well as non-Indigenous educators, began working to explore connections between Anishinaabe or Métis cultural practices and the mathematics inherent within these practices.

For more information on C2UExpo, click [here](#) and [here](#).

[Click here to read the media release...](#)







## Research in Action: Answering the call of the life-giving waters of Gichigami

When the Thunder Bay Art Gallery opens the doors to a new building on the waterfront, visitors will be treated to an expansive exhibition space, the centrepiece of which will be pieces from more than two dozen artists inspired by the proximity to Lake Superior. Among the contributors to this large-scale series will be two Lakehead University faculty members and four sessional lecturers.

A multidisciplinary artist, **Shahsahabi** is joined by colleague Roly Martin and several former students now employed as contract lecturers.

This series is called Madaabi, an Anishnaabemowin (Ojibway language) term for “s/he/they goes down to shore.” Madaabi encompasses the themes of people, place and land.



Shahsahabi has finished a two-part piece, based on water memory and how it can be preserved through sacred geometry. There are two elements to it: one is copper, with acid and enamel representing the Sleeping Giant. Copper was traditionally used by Indigenous Peoples in the Middle East as a healing alloy. The second part is a representation of the reflection of the Sleeping Giant in the lake, done in encaustic. Shining and buffing both the beeswax and copper can create a reflective surface. The effect is that viewers will see a reflection of themselves, hopefully inspiring them to also consider Indigenous peoples' attachment to this landmark and what they have witnessed throughout history.

Julie Cosgrove is another contributor. A graduate of the Visual Arts program, she has been a contract lecturer in the department since 2012. Her piece for Madaabii will consist of four paintings on canvas, “journeying in Northern waters,” exploring the relationship between water and the creative process. The inspiration was a reproduction of the historical map of Lake Superior and Hudson Bay created in

Research in Action highlights the work of Lakehead University in various fields of research.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



## Lakehead University opens Climate Action Park

On June 6, Lakehead University hosted the grand opening for its Climate Action Park at the newly expanded fire pit with members from the campus and community.

Lakehead's Climate Action Park is a co-designed space that aims to restore aquatic habitat along the shoreline of the McIntyre River, improve stormwater management through Low Impact Development (LID) techniques like the bioretention site and riparian area, raise awareness of the climate crisis, and create a place for connection and learning.

**Dr. Lindsay Galway**, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Sciences, described the process of co-creating the park with help from the community.

The development of the Climate Action Park at Lakehead University has been led by the Office of Sustainability, the Lake Superior Living Labs Network, and the Thunder Bay Remedial Action Plan.

It has also been funded and supported by the Great Lakes Local Action Fund, World Wildlife Fund Canada, EarthCare Thunder Bay, and Lakehead University departments such as the Provost's Office, Office of Research and Innovation, Alumni Association, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Business Administration, and Physical Plant.

The park is part of a broader effort in Thunder Bay that also includes the LRCA's Climate Change Awareness Park at Fisherman's Park West.

Lakehead University also acknowledges the many campus and community members who contributed to the visioning of this space, and in particular, Elders Gene Nowegejick, Peggy Smith, and Beatrice Twance-Hynes.

As part of the opening, earlier in the day local high school students participated in a planting and learning day at the Climate Action Park during C2U Expo's Climate Action Field School, facilitated by outdoor education graduate students from Lakehead's Faculty of Education and advisors Elder Gerry Martin and Greenhouse Manager Keri Pidgen-Welyki.

This "Go Wild" project aims to engage youth in habitat restoration efforts on campus and is funded by the World Wildlife Fund Canada.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





# Entrepreneurship and Innovation

## Ingenuity launches third cohort of Ingenuity Accelerator program, Ascend

On May 8, Lakehead launched the third cohort of the Ingenuity Accelerator program, Ascend. The program is a great opportunity for entrepreneurial-minded Lakehead University students looking to transition an idea into a business opportunity or accelerate the growth and development of their early-stage start-up.

Ingenuity Ascend provides funding to the business ideas upon successful completion of set milestones. The 10-week bootcamp style program will also provide access to mentors and knowledge-based activities.



### Ascend 2023 Cohort Participants

#### **Liaison — Louis Johnson**

There are a huge number of talented artists and innovative entrepreneurs throughout Thunder Bay that want to turn their craft into a business. However, turning your creativity and innovation into a business can be a difficult and time-consuming process, which is why I created Liaison, The official “small business middle man”. With the skepticism that consumers face when buying products online, alongside the high cost to maintain a storefront and the hassle of trying to gain exposure for your small business, we at Liaison have created a solution that mitigates all these problems with one simple solution. Liaison is a completely automated locker system that allows artists and entrepreneurs to seamlessly market and sell their crafts and products in high foot traffic venues. When an artist chooses to invest in our service, they are also choosing to invest in themselves."

#### **Silver Vantage Software — Christopher Silver**

Silver Vantage Software is a software company providing solutions to modern problems using computer vision and machine learning. Currently, our main focus is the development and deployment of a thermal fall detection system, in which a thermal sensor monitors a room and sends an alert when a fall is detected.





### ***Pixel Point — Allan Alias***

Pixel Point is a comprehensive social media management and real estate media solution provider. We specialize in management and digital marketing, offering a range of services from content creation to paid ads management. In addition, we cater to the real estate sector with professional photography, videography, virtual staging, and floor plan services. Our approach is client-centric and data-driven, ensuring tailored strategies that resonate with your brand and audience. With our focus on efficiency, quality, and simple pricing, we are committed to helping businesses enhance their online presence and achieve their marketing goals.

### ***Silver Sands Nail Bar — Asha Nurse***

Silver Sands Nail Bar is a home-based and mobile nail salon based in Thunder Bay. We offer gel polish, gel extensions, and overlays, specializing in the newest trends in the nail industry. Our target audience includes students on campus and in the surrounding areas. As a mobile salon, we take the hassle out of finding a nail technician by bringing our services directly to you. Our mission is to understand and meet the needs of our clients, especially those of the younger generation.

## ***Ingenuity collaboration brings inaugural “Hack it: Thunder Bay” Competition***

CityStudio Thunder Bay, in collaboration with Confederation College and Ingenuity at Lakehead University, proudly presented the winners of the inaugural 'Hack It: Thunder Bay' competition. Instead of hacking computers, students joined forces to hack a crucial challenge: how to enhance communication and engagement between the City of Thunder Bay and its young adult population.

Throughout the course of a week, student teams enthusiastically tackled this challenge, crafting two-page proposals and compelling video presentations. Emerging victorious was "Youth Connectors," a group of talented business students from Lakehead University, with their innovative proposal for an engaging mobile app and the establishment of a youth council to connect with young adults. The winning team received exciting experiential rewards, including Thunderwolves tickets, Thunder Bay Country Market vouchers, and tickets for dining and bowling.

The next phase of this initiative involves presenting these creative ideas to the City of Thunder Bay's Corporate Communications team, with the aim of transforming these concepts into reality.