



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

November
2020





Office of the President

In Memoriam: Former Lakehead University President, Dr. Fred Gilbert

Lakehead University community members were saddened to learn of the passing of our former President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Fred Gilbert, on Monday, November 2, 2020.

Dr. Gilbert served as our University's 6th President and Vice-Chancellor from 1998-2010.

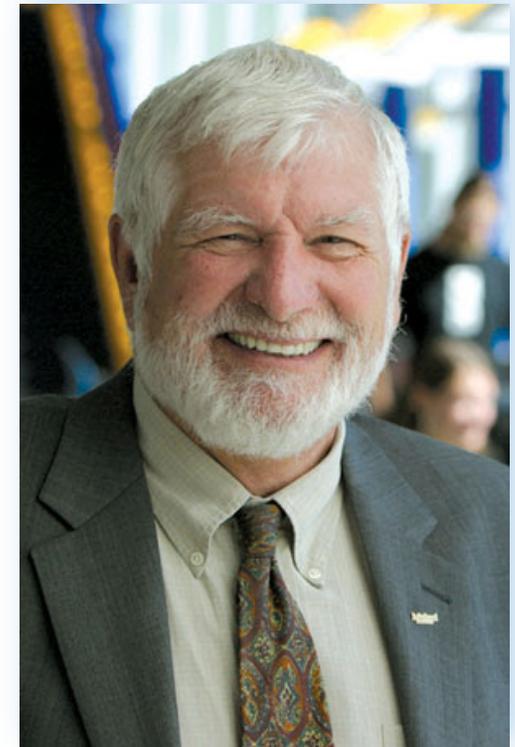
While his achievements as our President were many, his two most impactful were the founding of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and the establishment of our Lakehead Orillia campus. While the dream of a University coming to Orillia began years earlier, it was Dr. Gilbert's efforts supporting the drive of the citizens of Orillia that saw that dream come true.

In 2006, President Gilbert opened the doors at Heritage Place in Orillia, ushering in the dawn of Lakehead University's presence in Orillia and Simcoe County. Just after the end of his term in 2010, Lakehead Orillia's current main campus location welcomed its first cohort of students and the rest is a history of diverse post-secondary opportunities for students across the County and beyond.

Dr. Gilbert will long be remembered for his leadership and tremendous commitment to Lakehead University.

The Lakehead University community extends its deepest condolences to Dr. Gilbert's wife, Dan, and his daughter, Alyssa.

[Click here to read the family's obituary...](#)





Honouring former Lakehead President and Lakehead Orillia's founding Dean and Vice-Provost

Lakehead University has celebrated the tremendous legacies of Orillia campus pioneers, Dr. Fred Gilbert and Dr. Kim Fedderson, with the planting of two trees to honour their legacy in leadership.

Gilbert held the post of President and Vice-Chancellor of Lakehead University from 1998 to 2010, during which time Gilbert led the establishment of the Lakehead Orillia campus.

Fedderson distinguished himself as the founding Dean and Vice-Provost of the Lakehead Orillia campus in 2007, and then in 2015, he was appointed the first Principal of the campus.

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Treaties Recognition Week

Lakehead's Office of Indigenous Initiatives, Bora Laskin Faculty of Law, the Indigenous Learning Team, and the Chancellor Paterson Library organized and hosted an exceptional week of virtual events to recognize Treaties Recognition Week.

At Lakehead, this annual event honours the importance of treaties and helps build awareness and education about the treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and on the importance of honouring the obligations made through the treaties. These agreements provide foundations for ongoing co-operation and partnership.

This year's events included guest speakers, a Lakehead University Global Indigenous Speaker Series lecturer, an Elder Talk about Indigenous language, and educational sessions introducing audiences to treaty law and treaty relations. We were especially grateful to have Ryan McMahon as a brilliant keynote speaker.

[Click here to learn more...](#)





Lakehead University's Global Indigenous Speakers Series

Lakehead's Global Indigenous Speakers Series kicked off earlier this year when we hosted Jorge Miguel Cocom Pech as the Series' inaugural speaker. Through his own poetry and essays, Mr. Pech shared his ideas on the importance of reverting to ancestral knowledge and customs to face the critical issues of our time.

The purpose of the Global Indigenous Speakers Series is to invite Indigenous scholars from around the world to share their knowledge and perspectives on the resiliency and sustainability of our current philosophies, structures and systems. Indigenous knowledge systems which are relational and well-established can offer alternative approaches to contemporary issues and support the re-imagination of our global future.

This invitational speakers series — created by James Aldridge (Vice-Provost, International), Denise Baxter (Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives), and Dr. Lana Ray (Assistant Professor, Indigenous Learning) — highlights the theory, research, and practice of international Indigenous scholars, offering students and faculty across disciplines inspiration, creativity and paths forward in uncertain times.

On November 4, **Dr. Wendy Smythe** presented *Dii Hlanggwáay tla k_jiyya 'la áaygaagang: Fostering Inclusive Research and Education Practices From K-12 to Funding Agencies*.

Dr. Smythe is an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), she holds a joint appointment between the Departments of American Indian Studies and Earth & Environmental Sciences. She was named the 2019 Professional of the Year by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) for her interdisciplinary research in geoscience, Native Education, and policy. In 2020 Dr. Smythe was elected to the AISES Board of Directors.



[Click here for more information on about our speakers and the Series...](#)



Teaching and Learning Week 2020

Lakehead University's Teaching Commons, in collaboration with Lakehead University International, hosted its annual Teaching & Learning Week from October 26-30. This year's theme was *Anti-Racism and Pedagogies of Inclusion* and featured guest speakers on topics including Indigegogy, Cultural Intelligence, Queering your Classroom, Inclusive Language, and Anti-racist pedagogies.

This year's Teaching and Learning Week keynote address was delivered by Lakehead University Distinguished Instructor Award winner, **Dr. Alice Den Otter**.

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Academic Excellence

Lakehead Ranked #1 in Ontario and among Canada's Top 10 in *Maclean's University Rankings*

Maclean's has once again included Lakehead University among Canada's top 10 primarily undergraduate universities in the magazine's 2021 University Rankings.

Lakehead tied for first overall among Ontario universities in its category, and ranked eighth out of 19 primarily undergraduate universities from across Canada.

While over 90 per cent of Lakehead's domestic undergraduate student population faces at least one barrier to postsecondary education, Lakehead University has the highest graduation rate among all universities in *Maclean's* primarily undergraduate category.

This year, *Maclean's* University Rankings place Lakehead first in Ontario in student awards (tied), faculty awards, and total library expenses; second in student/faculty ratio, social sciences and humanities grants, total research dollars, scholarships and bursaries, and library acquisitions; and third in medical/science grants, operating budget, and in reputation.

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Maclean's includes Lakehead's Computer Science program among Top 20 in Canada

The Department of Computer Science at Lakehead University has been recognized as one of the top Computer Science programs in Canada in the Maclean's 2021 post-secondary evaluation rankings.

Notably, in this ranking Lakehead University is the only small, undergraduate-focused institution on the list amidst many larger schools.

Lakehead's courses are updated regularly with cutting edge, relevant and high demand content including pattern recognition, big data analytics, image processing, natural language processing, deep learning, machine learning, neural networks, cyber security and optimization algorithms.

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TALL/CELL/Ontario Master Naturalist

November 12 was the last day of TALL: "A 'Better Normal'?: Engaging in a Post-pandemic future, in which approximately 100 seniors joined from across Ontario and as far away as Whistler, BC to discuss potential societal shifts related to experiences with Covid-19. Registration for the January program, Aging Successfully: Putting yourself in the Driver's Seat", will open very soon!

November 15 was the "In Conversation with Anne Dagg: The Woman Who Loves Giraffes". This event enabled over 60* households to watch the compelling documentary about the world's first giraffologist, before meeting her and the film's director, Alison Reid, for an interactive Q and A. This event raised funds for the Faye Peterson House in Thunder Bay and for Greenhaven in Orillia.

Another full cohort of 30 lifelong learners are taking the Ontario Master Naturalist Program's certificate program this October through December, and many others participated in the three fall workshops we offered on ferns, as well as early and late mushroom species.

We received a \$5,000 grant from TD: Ready Commitment to enable us to pivot to a hybrid model for our Ontario Master Naturalist Program, which now draws on interactive PowerPoints, video, Flipgrid technologies, synchronous webinars, and a virtual Trailhead Zoomspace.



Anthropology professor honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Scott Hamilton** who was recently honoured conferred the *J.V. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Ontario Archaeological Society at a virtual ceremony on Friday, Nov. 6.

Dr. Hamilton, who has worked as an archaeologist in Northern Ontario since the early 1980s, was hired by Lakehead University in 1988. Now a full professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, he's since contributed to the addition of two new Master's degree programs and supervised many graduate students.

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

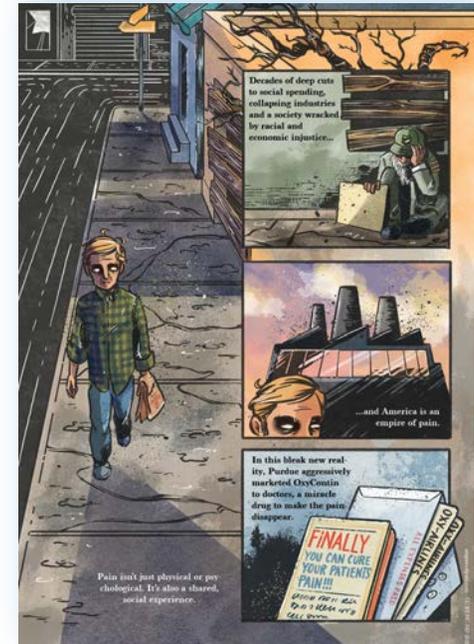
Professor publishes graphic novella about the opioid crisis

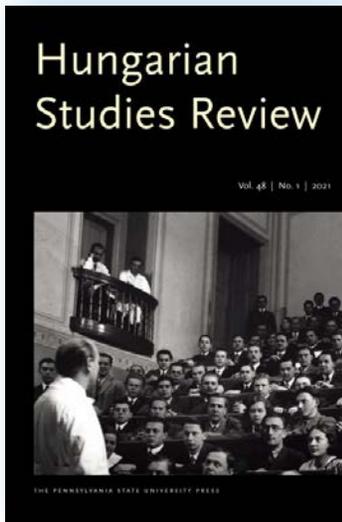
Empires of Pain: A Story of Racism, Opioids and Revenge is a new, short web-based comic co-authored by Lakehead Canada Research Chair in Culture, Media and Social Justice Dr. Max Haiven.

The novella, based on a chapter of Haiven's recently published book *Revenge Capitalism: The Ghosts of Empire, the Demons of Capital, and the Settling of Unpayable Debts* (Pluto 2020), focuses on the longer history of drugs, empires and racism, tracing the roots of today's crisis to the 19th century Opium Wars.

It explores the links between the drug crisis and the tide of far-right political revenge that has recently swept the United States and other countries.

The comic can be read for free at empiresofpain.com where visitors can also find essays and audio.





Dr. Steven Jobbitt publishes in Hungarian Studies Review 2020

Congratulations to Dr. Steve Jobbitt on the publication of the most recent issue of Hungarian Studies Review.

In addition to serving as co-editor, Dr. Jobbitt has a co-authored editorial essay, a short article, and a book review in this issue.

Starting in January 2021, Hungarian Studies Review will be publishing with Penn State University Press, and Dr. Jobbitt will be assuming the position of managing editor.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ingenuity hosts Mitacs Accelerate Entrepreneur Program

Ingenuity was recently approved as a business incubator that is eligible to host participants in the Mitacs Accelerate Entrepreneur Program. This program provides funding to further develop the research or technology at the core of their business. The program offers funding for the participant to draw a salary while undertaking research and building their business. *Ingenuity* will support the participant by providing physical space in the Ingenuity District, along with business development support and mentorship

ACCELERATE ENTREPRENEUR TAKE YOUR START-UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL

A new offering from Mitacs provides early-stage support to student entrepreneurs.

FUNDING TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Accelerate Entrepreneur funds student entrepreneurs to further develop the research or technology at the core of their business when hosted by an incubator facility.

Mitacs funding helps you to take full, meaningful advantage of the supports provided by the incubator, with the goal of commercializing your technology, product, or service rapidly. In a nutshell, you get paid to grow your company and get to market faster.

HOW IT WORKS

- ▶ Starting at 10% funding, both Mitacs and the start-up receive a 4-month, research-based stipend, with the company for college, independent, graduate or postdoc stipend.
- ▶ You spend the stipend undertaking research, product, service, or business development.
- ▶ You receive a maximum of \$10,000 for a 4-month project.

WE SUPPORT GROWTH WHERE YOU NEED IT

Accelerate Entrepreneur can help your early-stage business where it makes the most sense:

- ▶ Pitching and testing a new product, service, or technology
- ▶ Scaling and improving on an existing product, service, or technology

A FLEXIBLE AND SCALABLE OPTION

- ▶ Make your company's limited budget go further
- ▶ Applications are accepted anytime
- ▶ Evaluation is completed in 6-8 weeks
- ▶ Projects start at 4-months and can be scaled up depending on your start-up's needs

JOIN YOUR COMPANY WITH MITACS

Get started at mitacs.ca or email Wenwen.Luo@mitacs.ca at mitacs.ca for all details on the program requirements and eligibility.

We would like to thank the following governments for their support:

Canada

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Local and Global Partnerships

Lakehead University a founding partner of new UArctic's Laera Institute for Circumpolar Education

Lakehead University has joined Trent University, the University of Northern British Columbia, Yukon University, the Arctic State Agrotechnological University in Russia, and Nord University in Norway as a founding partner of the Læra Institute for Circumpolar Education (Læra Institute), a new institute within the international University of the Arctic (UArctic).

Funded by UiT: The Arctic University of Norway and the Norwegian Ministry for Education and Research, over the next two years it will develop curriculum specifications, exemplar courses and pedagogical resources to support circumpolar studies, whether in-person or online.

The Læra Institute will also hold regular workshops for faculty, as well as educational symposia for students. Special attention will be paid to the varied perspectives on "circumpolarity" that exist across the Circumpolar North, particularly Indigenous perspectives.

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



International Education Week

Lakehead University hosted a series of virtual interactive workshops and events from November 16 to 20 as part of the University's first ever International Education Week (IEW).

Lakehead International was excited to be joining forces with organizations in over 100 countries around the globe to strengthen the understanding of international education and celebrate its importance within our local and global communities.

The events organized as part of IEW will recognize and celebrate international talent, explore opportunities for working and studying abroad, showcase how the University prepares students for our global environment, and allowed participants to sample ways in which we are embracing cultural diversity at Lakehead. These interactive sessions hosted via the online platform Zoom was available to members of our campuses and communities in Thunder Bay and Simcoe County.

For more event information, visit the [International Education Week website](#).



Researchers Receive Funding for Partnership Development through the NSERC Alliance Program

Lakehead University has received \$1,709,159 from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and partners since March 2020 to support multiple projects through the Alliance program and the Collaborative Research & Development program.

Alliance Grants:

- Dr. Amanda Diochon - Optimizing the ratio of paper mill biosolids and wood ash for a soil amendment to maximize yield and soil quality (\$40,500 cash, \$2,400 in-kind)
- Dr. Amanda Diochon - Which approach makes the most cents? Evaluating the effect of land conversion practices on soil health and yields of barley and oats (\$258,759 cash, \$26,000 in-kind)
- Dr. Pete Hollings - Petrogenesis and geochemistry of mineralized Midcontinent Rift intrusions (\$450,000 cash, \$145,800 in-kind)
- Dr. Pete Hollings - Petrogenesis of Archean and Mesoproterozoic Ni-Cu-PGE mineralization in NW Ontario (\$750,000 cash, \$175,000 in-kind)
- Dr. Ashley Thomson - Development and validation of genomic-assisted breeding models for increased productivity and wood quality of black spruce in Ontario (\$119,900 cash, \$26,513 in-kind)

Collaborative Research & Development Grant:

- Dr. Abdul Yassine - A data analytics system for adaptive demand response in smart grids (\$90,000)

NSERC Alliance grants encourage university researchers to collaborate with partner organizations, which can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors. Lakehead researchers have partnered with Clear Air Metals, Resolute, Superior-Woods Tree Improvement Association, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Synergy North, and North American Palladium to generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results to create benefits for Canada. In addition to their financial contributions to these research projects, these partners have also provided \$469,100 worth of in-kind support.

In addition, Lakehead University received six COVID-19 Alliance Grants, totalling \$300,000 in cash funding, and \$245,160 worth of in-kind support from industry partners.

Dr. Alla Rezik has also received an NSERC Idea to Innovation grant of \$125,000 to advance x-ray medical imaging detector technology while reducing the radiation associated with medical imaging.



CONACYT-CITNOVA Congress

The State of Hidalgo's Council on Science and Technology, CITNOVA, hosted a congress entitled *The Integration of Indigenous Women in Social Entrepreneurial Projects for Regional Development and Social Innovation* around the CONACYT-CITNOVA scholarship program that gives access to Indigenous women to graduate studies in Mexico.

The purpose of the event was to underline the importance of the role of indigenous women and education, social innovation, and the development of indigenous communities.

The opening day also served to announce the launch of BÄSDÄNXU, a network for community engagement based in Hidalgo, Mexico.

The CONACYT-CITNOVA scholarship program has supported over 60 indigenous women since 2017 to come to Lakehead University, enrol in a 1-month intensive English program on our Thunder Bay campus, and participate in enriching leadership activities around the theme of indigenous education.

Lakehead University has an MOU with both CITNOVA and with CONACYT, as well as a letter of intent with CONACYT to strengthen the presence of Indigenous people in higher education and research and for co-funding graduate students from Mexico and Canada.

