



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

**April
2021**





Office of the President

Lakehead in Top 100 of Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for second time

For the second year in a row, Lakehead University has placed in the top 100 of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

The THE Impact Rankings measure the societal impact of universities by evaluating an institutions' success in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The rankings measure the impact universities make to the world in the areas of poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

Lakehead finished 99th out of 1,115 universities from around the world, based on its performance in meeting the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Lakehead is the only primarily undergraduate university in Canada that participated in the 2021 THE Impact Rankings and one of only 26 universities from North America to be included in the top 100. The University was among just 260 universities from around the world that qualified to participate in all 17 SDGs.

Ranking ahead of several top comprehensive and research-intensive Canadian universities, Lakehead scored highly across many SDGs, including a top 10 ranking in SDG 15: Life on Land. The Life on Land SDG evaluates how universities support land ecosystems through education and action, how they contribute to sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and how they halt biodiversity loss by measuring their research on land ecosystems.

Lakehead also scored highly on other metrics, including a top 20 ranking in Life Below Water, a top 30 ranking in No Poverty and Zero Hunger, and a top 40 ranking for Reduced Inequalities and Clean Water and Sanitation.

Visit Lakehead University's Times Higher Education profile at [timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/lakehead-university](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/lakehead-university).

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Lakehead University names new Vice-President, External Relations

Lakehead University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Moira McPherson, is very pleased to announce that following an extensive national search, **Michael den Haan** has been appointed as the University's new Vice-President, External Relations.



Mr. den Haan brings 25 years of experience in fundraising, donor, alumni and volunteer engagement, communications, governance, and external relations. He most recently served as Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Engagement at Simon Fraser University.

Dr. McPherson is looking forward to welcoming den Haan to the Lakehead University community. "Michael comes to us with a wealth of leadership experience in philanthropy, alumni and community relations, and I am very confident that Lakehead will benefit from his many skills in this critically important role at our University," said Dr. McPherson.

The University's External Relations portfolio plays a critical role in advancing Lakehead's strategic priorities by building and promoting key relationships with diverse internal and external audiences. As a member of Lakehead's Executive Team, den Haan will be responsible for providing a comprehensive, integrated approach to communications, marketing and web development, advancement and philanthropy, alumni engagement, and in close collaboration with government relations.

Mr. den Haan will be based at Lakehead University's Orillia campus while working closely with colleagues, alumni, donors and community members in Thunder Bay, Orillia, and around the world. Mr. den Haan will begin his role on May 5, 2021.

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***Ingenuity's Disrupt the Day* competition and Ascend Accelerator Program launch**

On March 13, **Ingenuity** held its 7th annual ***Disrupt It Weekend*** event in a new virtual format, renamed ***Disrupt The Day***. The all-day event included 17 participants in six teams who pitched business ideas to win a cash prize sponsored by Thunder Bay Ventures.

The winning team was composed of community members and students from the Faculty of Business Administration. Their idea was Age BIG, a program to keep the aging population socially engaged.



The People's Choice Award went to a group of Lakehead students for their business idea, Bay Bazaar, an online market for local vendors. ***Disrupt The Day*** and ***Disrupt It Weekend*** are held in partnership with The Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre.

Ingenuity has also launched applications for the **Ascend Accelerator Program**. Ascend is a 12-week bootcamp-style program that works with participants to help develop their business ideas to launch. The program features knowledge-based workshops, guest speakers, and mentors, and provides \$7,500 per team for start-up funding. The selection process will begin the week of April 5, and **Ingenuity** is accepting 3-4 business ideas for this year's cohort.

Lakehead Orillia Food & Conference Services' and TSC working with community and students

On March 4, **Lakehead Orillia** hosted the **City of Orillia's virtual Business Achievement Awards** event with over 100 attendees. Lakehead Orillia's Food & Conference Services and Technology Services Centre worked behind the scenes to organize the event. The City of Orillia was very happy with the outcome and the show went off without a hitch. Lakehead Orillia would like to host this event in the future, either virtually or in person. This event would normally include an awards gala with a cocktail reception and dinner.

On March 11, **Lakehead Orillia's residence students** enjoyed a **special dinner** sponsored by the Office of the Principal. While meal service was by take-out only to adhere to COVID health guidelines, the 3-course meal was thoroughly enjoyed — particularly the triple-stack chocolate brownie with strawberries.



Global Indigenous Speakers Series — Dr. Linda Payi Ford

On March 3, Lakehead University's Global Indigenous Speakers Series invited **Dr. Linda Payi Ford** to host a lecture as part of our 2021 Research and Innovation Week. The purpose of this special series is to highlight the theories, research, and practices of international Indigenous scholars and artists, offering us all inspiration, creativity, and paths forward in uncertain times.

Dr. Ford balances her academic research career, teaching and learning in higher education, family, caring for country and culture. She used her lecture, *Mirrwana & Wurrkama Theory: an Indigenist Research Methodology*, to describe and share her life's work in social science, humanities, and the educational discipline field, highlighting include Australian Aboriginal engagement, Indigenist research background, an Aboriginal methodology, Mirrwana and Wurrkama theory.



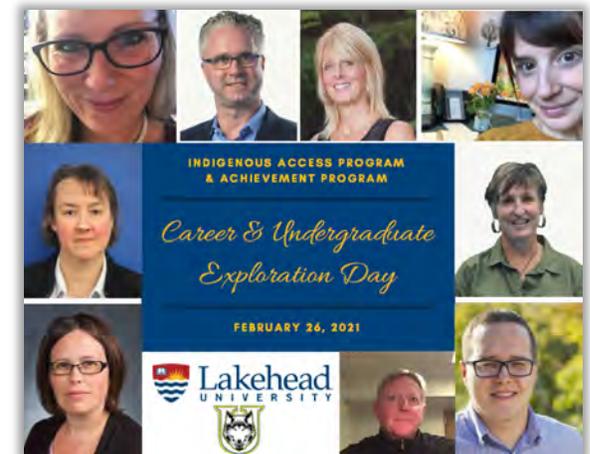
IAP & Achievement Program Career & Undergraduate Exploration Day

On February 26, 2021, the Achievement Program partnered with Lakehead University's Indigenous Access Programs (IAP) to host a Career & Undergraduate Exploration Day for IAP students and Achievement Program students in grades 10-12. This event was the 8th annual Exploration Day for IAP, and the third year joining with the Achievement Program.

The Career & Undergraduate Exploration Day was designed to help students decide which undergraduate degree or career pathway they might wish to pursue. To begin our virtual event, we held an opening ceremony that included a smudging and song by Elder Beatrice Twance, words of welcome from Lakehead University's Chancellor and Achievement Program Guidance Committee Chair, Lyn McLeod and Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives Denise Baxter, and a greeting from a Native Access Program alumnus who shared their educational journey and words of advice.

The opening welcome was then followed by a virtual Speed Networking Sessions for our students to connect with faculty, staff, current students, and professionals in the areas of their interest. Students participated in three 15-minute rounds of networking with Faculty of Business Administration, Faculty of Engineering, School of Nursing, School of Kinesiology, Indigenous Education, Indigenous Learning, Psychology, School of Social Work and student success orientation leaders (current student).

The structure of the event allowed students to connect with and learn from faculty, staff, current students, and professionals in breakout rooms in a relaxed and inviting atmosphere.





2020 Annual Report Outreach

Beginning in early February, I have been joined by Dr. David Barnett (Provost & Vice-President, Academic) or Kathy Pozihun (Vice-President, Administration & Finance) to present to various Thunder Bay organizations on the achievements of Lakehead University. To date, we have presented to the Port Arthur Rotary, the Fort William Rotary, and the Fort William Kinettes, and we look forward to doing more in the coming months. Our presentations include an overview of our 2020 Annual Report, which highlights our recent accomplishments. These presentations, which have all been done in a virtual format, feature a PowerPoint presentation, a tour of Lakehead’s Annual Report website, the annual report video, and time for discussion and questions.

Thrive Week 2021

Thrive Week was held from January 25th to January 30th. It aimed to increase mental health literacy, build healthy habits and self-care skills, and help foster a community of wellness at Lakehead University. We were excited to move this program virtually in 2021 and learn how to thrive from home. All events were free and open to all Lakehead students, faculty and staff unless otherwise noted.

This year’s Thrive Week kicked off with the launch of Lakehead’s Wellness Strategy and some highlights include a Jack Talk, a cooking demonstration with Chef Jen Sauve and Student Life Coordinator Jenny Veal, and an art and yoga workshop with Thunder Bay artist, Vik Wilen. A virtual photo booth was used for sharing a selfie with a mental health message. We encouraged everyone to bring Thrive Week into the classroom and meetings with our Mindful Moment slides.

For more information about Thrive Week activities, please visit www.lakeheadu.ca/thrive.



Lakehead Orillia receives Certificate of Appreciation

The City of Orillia’s Board of Sustainable Orillia presented a certificate of appreciation for the support that Lakehead University Orillia has provided for Sustainable Orillia over the past two years.

The certificate acknowledges “funds or in-kind support shared by local organizations to help Sustainable Orillia engage local citizens in actions that build more rewarding and health lives for the people of Orillia.”



Orillia campus hosts first annual Deanie Awards

On January 12, 2021, the Lakehead Orillia campus hosted the first annual Deanie Awards. The Deanie Awards were created and hosted by the Orillia Engagement Committee (OEC) to celebrate and shine a light on the talented individuals that make up the team in Orillia. Informal, fun, and lighthearted, the recognition event was an opportunity for staff and faculty to be recognized not only for their successes, but also for their individuality.

In total, 46 nominations were received and 12 awards were presented. Each award handed out was peer-nominated. You'll notice that there are no categories and that's because the OEC wanted to celebrate each person's individuality and the uniqueness of their specific nomination. The winners of the 2021 Deanie Awards were:

- **Kayla Van Weert**, Student Success Advisor – Rookie of the Year (*outstanding performance from a new team member*)
- **T-Bird**, Manager, Security Services - Meryl Streep Award (*most nominations received*)
- **Steven Secord**, Digital Curriculum Specialist and Faculty Advisor Student Teaching Year One – Mentos Award (*mentorship and leadership*)
- **Jessie Clarke**, Student Central Professional – Wikipedia Award (*knowledge and expertise*)
- **Dr. Ruth Beatty**, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education – Snickers Award (*for making people happy*)
- **Dr. Michael Hoehsmann**, Chair, Education Programs (Orillia) – Firefighter Award (*for leadership in tough times*)
- **Chris Glover**, Director, Student Affairs – Champagne Award (*personality*)
- **Katie Fraser**, International Engagement Specialist – Student Whisperer Award (*dedication to students*)
- **Danielle Poeta**, Accessibility & Academic Skills Advisor – Every Day is Friday Award (*positivity and enthusiasm*)
- **Vicki Te Brugge**, Science Lab Coordinator and Contract Lecturer, Sustainability Sciences – Buzz Lightyear Award (*going above and beyond*)
- **Dr. Reg Horne**, Contract Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Studies and Geography and the Environment – Deep Roots Award (*lifetime achievement*)
- **Security Services Team** – Justice League Award (*outstanding team*)

The Orillia Engagement Committee was born out of the 2019 Employee Engagement Survey – a group of 13 faculty and staff from the Orillia campus tasked with generating ideas and actions that strengthen staff engagement while enhancing the local working environment.



Academic Excellence

Lakehead University awarded more than \$360k for Pathway and Transfer Projects that will serve the needs of diverse student groups

Lakehead University has been awarded \$367,708 from the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) to explore new seamless transfer projects and to continue working on software that will automatically analyze curriculum gaps.

ONCAT's Seamless Transfer projects focus on policy and practice changes and interventions that affect the credit transfer system as a whole. This funding supports experimentation and innovations in credit transfer processes, helps gauge the sector's readiness for change, and identifies realistic models that can be scaled province-wide.

Dr. Lana Ray, Assistant Professor in the Department of Indigenous Learning, has been awarded \$114,094 over the next two years, for a project entitled Indigenizing Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR): Exploring how post-secondary institutions can recognize Indigenous community-based knowledge during credit and degree-granting processes.

Denise Baxter, Vice-Provost Indigenous Initiatives, has received \$105,666 for a project called Actioning and Expanding Commitment to Indigenous Learners.

Dr. Heather Murchison, Vice-Provost Institutional Planning and Analysis, will receive \$77,448 for a project entitled Understanding Transfer Student Experience & Outcomes through Business Intelligence Analytics.

ONCAT has also extended and provided an additional \$70,500 for the PathwAI Project led by **Dr. Vijay Mago**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science.

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New Lakehead University Research Chairs

Lakehead University is pleased to announce the selection of faculty members **Dr. Connie Russell** (Education) and **Dr. Salama Ikki** (Electrical Engineering) as the newest Lakehead University Research Chairs (LURCs).

Dr. Connie Russell, Lakehead University Research Chair in Environmental Education, will study how humour could be used to better engage the public as well as learners in formal and informal settings with difficult issues like climate change, social injustices, and environmental degradation.

Dr. Salama Ikki, Lakehead University Research Chair in Wireless Communications, will undertake research focused on creating a unified theoretical framework that will lead in the application of artificial intelligence to telecommunications systems. Considering various practical constraints, his focus is on the development of sophisticated algorithms that will enable the realization of these smart systems in realistic environments.

These two chairs, whose terms last for two years, are the 15th and 16th LURCs to be appointed since the program commenced in 2008.

For more information on LURCs and other chairs, please visit the [Research and Innovation website](#).

Researchers help newcomer women overcome economic shock caused by COVID-19

Dr. Kathy Sanderson, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration, and her team, including Dr. Claudio Pousa, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration, and students, have received \$193,014 from the Future Skills Centre to study how newly-arrived women to Northwestern Ontario women are being further disadvantaged regarding employment.

The research team will survey 400 Northwestern Ontario women residents (half of them will be newcomers) over the next two years to determine how they can overcome the economic shock caused by COVID-19. This comparative, longitudinal study will allow the research team to reconceptualize how employment supports are delivered and identify opportunities and barriers to full labour participation by newcomer women in the wake of COVID-19.

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Software Engineering professor to guest edit special issue of *Journal of Imaging*

Dr. Thangarajah Akilan, Assistant Professor in Software Engineering, has been selected to be the guest editor of a special issue called Efficient Deep Learning Models for Resource-Limited Learning for Journal of Imaging.

Read more about the special issue [here](#).

Computer Science student publishes paper in *ACM Computing Surveys*

Congratulations to Dhivya Chandrasekaran, MSc Computer Science student, who has published *Evolution of Semantic Similarity - A Survey* in the ACM Computing Surveys journal with her supervisor Dr. Vijay Mago.

The paper provides a comprehensive view of existing semantic similarity systems for new researchers who intend to experiment and develop new innovative ideas to address the challenges of semantic similarity in sentences.

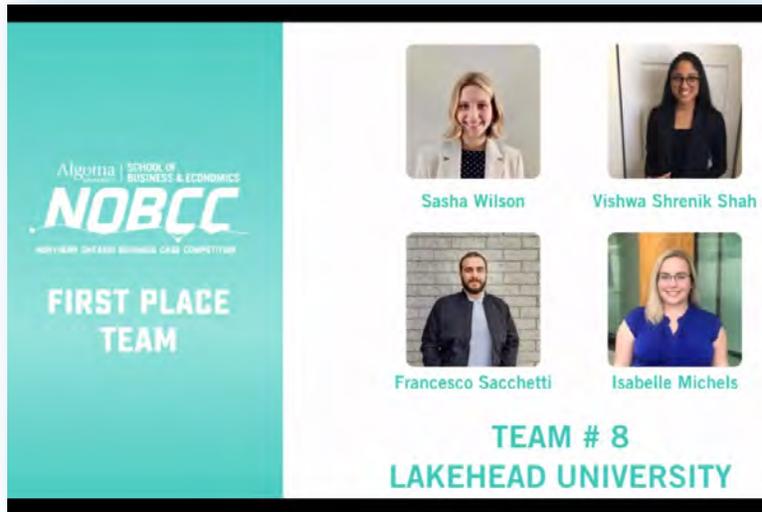
More information about the paper can be found [here](#).



Lindsey Holmstrom receives Regina Borowska Scholarship

Lindsey Holmstrom, a student in the Collaborative BScN program, is one of the 2021 Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario's (RNFOO) award winners.

Holmstrom has won a Regina Borowska Scholarship which is conferred to individuals who wish to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing with preference given to post-diploma RNs, RPNs, and applicants whose professional career goals enable them to contribute to the advancement of nursing.



Faculty of Business Administration students win Northern Ontario Business Case competition

Honours Bachelor of Commerce students **Isabelle Michels, Francesco Sacchetti, Vishwa Shah, and Sasha Wilson** competed as Team #8 at the annual Northern Ontario Business Case hosted by Algoma University. The team's winning presentation was about reducing the effects of contract cheating as teaching transitioned online during COVID-19. They proposed to introduce more support for professors and students because it is an equal effort from both parties. The team took inspiration from some of the Faculty of Business Administration's practices during COVID-19, such as extensive use of D2L.

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Faculty of Education student's win at International Climate Change-Makers Challenge

BEd student **Michael Chen** competed in the International Climate Change-Makers Challenge, an online competition that brought together engineers, artists, coders, educators, politicians, business-people and others to present and discuss potential solutions to our planet's climate change challenges under four themes: environment, economic, socio-cultural, and information.

Chen's team presented and won in the finals of the socio-cultural category.

View the team's submission, *Food Forests for All*: <https://devpost.com/software/food-forest-starter-kit>.

Read the Faculty of Education newsletter's story: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/programs/departments/education/news>.





Lakehead Orillia researchers receiving COVID-19-related research grants

Two Lakehead University Orillia researchers are receiving Partnership Engage Grants of approximately \$25,000 each for research connected with COVID-19, from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Dr. Natalya Timoshkina, Associate Professor in the School of Social Work, and two graduate students will partner with North Simcoe Victim Services for one year to examine the impact of COVID-19 on service provision to persons who have experienced human trafficking.

It involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat, use of force, abduction, debt bondage, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or other forms of coercion for the ultimate purpose of exploitation, typically in the sex industry or for forced labour.

Dr. Olakunle Akingbola, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration, will partner with Caribbean African Canadian Social Services Inc. (CAFCAN) for one year to research COVID-19 and remote work in non-profit organizations, including employee well-being and community outcomes.

The partnership seeks to investigate the characteristics of remote work at CAFCAN during COVID-19 and understand how employees perceive the remote work that they experience.

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Researchers publishes results from app that helps youth build resilience

Dr. Aislin Mushquash, a Clinical Psychologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Lakehead University, and her research team have published exciting results from a 28-day study of the JoyPop™ app developed by a team at McMaster University, which promotes resilience among youth. The JoyPop™ app was created based on research suggesting that mental health and resilience can be fostered by helping youth gain coping skills, especially those related to managing difficult emotions and increasing engagement in positive activities.

[Click here to view published results...](#)

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Silver medal for Outstanding Achievements in Patient Care by the JWC and WUWHS Awards

Congratulations to **Dr. Idevania Costa**, Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, on being awarded the Silver medal for “Outstanding Achievements in Patient Care” by the Journal of Wound Care and World Union of Wound Healing Societies Awards on February 20.

This prestigious award event is considered “the World Wound Care Olympics”. This award is open to all those, around the globe, who have made an outstanding contribution to any area of wound care putting patient at the centre of their work.

Dr. Costa received this award in recognition of the significant contributions she has been making to improve patients’ wound care in clinical, education, and research settings in both Brazil and Canada.

In Brazil, she established wound care clinics that remain functioning and to which she continues contributing her unique clinical expertise.

In Canada she has been working tirelessly to enhance individuals’ engagement in self-management of chronic wounds and advance wound care practice and outcomes. She developed a theory that explains how individuals engage in everyday self-management of chronic, hard to heal, wounds and uncovered the socio-economic factors facilitating or limiting their engagement.

Dr. Costa’s program of research at Lakehead University has focused on addressing the social determinants of health affecting for vulnerable populations (e.g., older adults, Indigenous) living with chronic conditions such as diabetes and preventing its consequences (e.g., foot disease and limb amputation).

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Recent Grants Received by Lakehead University Researchers

Dr. Vicki Kristman, Department of Health Sciences, in partnership with the Nokiiwin Tribal Council was awarded a CIHR Project Grant worth \$367,200 and titled Evaluating the Wiji app to improve Indigenous workplace mental health: a mixed-methods approach. The purpose of the project is to evaluate the effectiveness of the use of an e-mental health application known as Wiji in improving Indigenous workplace mental health.

Dr. Robert Stewart, Department of Geography and the Environment, was awarded \$163,000 in combined funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for Stream Restoration and Wetland Rehabilitation at the Fine Papers Site. The purpose of the project is to support environmental remediation efforts through the undertaking of a feasibility study for stream restoration as well as wetland rehabilitation as part of the Fine Papers site in the Thunder Bay, Ontario area.

Dr. Mitchell Albert, Department of Chemistry, is co-applicant on a Ministry of Health / Ministry of Long-Term Care grant held by Dr. Grace Parraga, Robarts Research Institute, Western University: Lung Structure-Function in Survivors of Mild and Severe COVID-19 Infection:129Xe MRI and CT for Rapid Evaluations and Next-wave Healthcare Planning. Of the \$876,000 awarded to the project, Lakehead is to receive \$387,900. The objective of the project is to study what long-term lung damage COVID-19-recovered individuals may suffer from post-recovery.

Dr. Maryam Ebrahimi, CRC in Low-dimensional Nanomaterials, Department of Chemistry, Lakehead University, is co-lead of the following recently awarded CFI Innovation Fund project: Advanced Materials Ontario: Harnessing the power of multifunctional catalysts for new technologies, Dr. Tong Leung, Department of Chemistry, Waterloo. The CFI is providing \$2,667,473 towards the project. Dr. Ebrahimi's portion of the research involves the development of a Scanning Probe Facility at Lakehead in order to develop 2D low-dimensional organic quantum materials. Dr. Ebrahimi will receive \$900,000 in CFI funding to purchase a DJ - Scienta Omicron Low-temperature Scanning Probe Microscope.



Big names set to launch Third Age Learning Lakehead in Thunder Bay

Canadian activist and author Maude Barlow, the *Toronto Star*'s Linda McQuaig, and Lakehead University professor Dr. Charles Levkoe are just a few of the speakers set to present during Third Age Learning Lakehead's (TALL) inaugural five-part series in Thunder Bay, starting March 24.

"Pivot(al): Possibilities for a Post-pandemic World" will discuss the Covid-19 pandemic and its continued impact on community, globalism, climate, politics, the economy and more.

Supported by the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, the goal of TALL Thunder Bay is to provide adults 55-plus with informed presentations from experts in their fields along with an opportunity to socialize.



Dr. Charles Levkoe, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Food Systems, the Director of the Sustainable Food Systems Lab, and associate professor in the Department of Health Sciences at Lakehead University, will kick off the series with "Food for Thought: Towards More Equitable and Sustainable Systems for All" on March 24. Levkoe will delve into some of the prominent challenges facing our food systems, and share examples of initiatives that aim to ensure more equitable and sustainable food systems for all.

On March 31, award-winning playwright, journalist, novelist, and filmmaker Drew Hayden Taylor will explore connections between theatre, humour, First Nations philosophy, literature, and identity in "*Me Tomorrow: Going Native* and Indigenous Futurisms".

Dr. Max Haiven, Canada Research Chair in Culture, Media and Social Justice at Lakehead University, will speak to how we can imagine more fair, peaceful and abundant ways of living together as we face the urge to return to "normal" in his talk, "The Struggle for the Post-pandemic Imagination" on April 7.

Linda McQuaig, journalist, author, activist and contributing columnist for the *Toronto Star*, will speak to how the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted a serious flaw in our quest for privatization of public services and enterprises in "Now More Than Ever: Time to End our Misguided Zeal for Privatization" on April 14.

Maude Barlow will close out the series on April 13 with her talk, "From COVID-19 Crisis to Post-pandemic Possibilities: Transitioning to a Better Future". Barlow will draw on a lifetime of activism to discuss key issues like trade and the water crisis, but she will also distinguish the important differences between false hope, reality, and a 'wise hope' that opens up the potential for positive change.

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Ontario Invests in Mineral Exploration and Mining Research at Lakehead University

The Ontario government has provided more than \$690,000 to help support research and development in mineral exploration and mining at Lakehead University. A total of \$2.1 million has been provided by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), NSERC, Impala Canada, and Lakehead University to establish a five-year Industrial Research Chair in Mineral Exploration. **Dr. Peter Hollings**, Professor of Geology and the Director of the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration (CESME) will assume this prestigious position. This investment will also support the creation of nine new jobs in Thunder Bay, and could eventually lead to the discovery of new mineral resources in Northern Ontario.



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Professor Mohammad Nasir Uddin named Fellow of the IEEE



Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin has been elevated to the status of Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his outstanding contributions to control techniques for alternating current (AC) motor drives. He is the first IEEE Fellow at Lakehead University. IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognized by the technical community as a prestigious honor and an important career achievement. The IEEE is the world's leading professional association for advancing technology for humanity. Through its 400,000 plus members in 160 countries, the association is a leading authority on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics.

Uddin joined Lakehead University in 2001. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering. He also serves as Coordinator of the Electrical Engineering program with the Lakehead-Georgian Partnership, and is the Director of the Renewable Energy, Power Systems and Drive Research Lab located in Barrie, Ont.

To learn more about IEEE or the IEEE Fellow Program, please visit www.ieee.org.

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Dr. Yimin Yang selected for Vector Faculty Affiliate Program

Dr. Yimin Yang from the Department of Computer Science has recently been appointed as a Faculty Affiliate at the prestigious Vector Institute. The Institute was established in 2017 for creating a community of premier AI talents in machine learning and deep learning researchers. Dr. Yang's research in these areas has won him wide recognition from his peers and leading experts on AI.

His appointment provides yet another piece of evidence for his research excellence. The Vector Institute has been funded by the Government of Canada through the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and nearly 40 companies in the Canadian economy across a range of sectors.

Lakehead's MSc in Computer Science (AI Specialization) is one of the few Vector-recognized AI MSc programs in Ontario, and top students from this program have been receiving Vector Institute scholarships since 2018.



Indigenous Learning student appointed to Minister Patty Hajdu's Youth Advisory Council

The Department of Indigenous Learning congratulates **Hannah Caruana** on her appointment to the Youth Advisory Council.

The Youth Advisory Council provides a venue for youth in the Thunder Bay-Superior North riding to discuss topics including Covid-19, social issues and environmental issues.

Hannah was motivated to seek out a seat on the Council to "assist in the actions needed to combat crises within our communities that rely on a dire need of youth voices and participation for sustainable implementation."

Over the course of the year, Hannah will be meeting bi-weekly with Minister Hajdu and other government representatives and support the creation of a youth driven community action plan to address safety and social well-being in the riding.





First-year nursing student receives a scholarship from Medavie

Grace Dawson, a first-year Nursing student at Lakehead University, has received a \$5,000 scholarship from Medavie.

Medavie, through its Foundation, has awarded a total of \$50,000 in scholarships that will be distributed to 10 exceptional students across four provinces, to support recipients in their post-secondary studies and future careers in health care.

Since 2017, the charitable foundation has awarded these annual scholarships to Canadians, aged 17-29, who are enrolled in full or part-time studies at a Canadian post-secondary school, are pursuing a health-related program of study, and have overcome adversity related to mental health, either through lived experience or a family member.

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Jessica Allingham wins 2nd place in the Provincial 3MT Competition for 2020

Jessica Allingham, a PhD student in Chemistry at Lakehead University, won second place in the Provincial 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Competition held virtually by the University of Windsor, for her thesis presentation, "Brightening up brain injuries," under the supervision of Dr. Michael Campbell and Dr. Wely Floriano.

The 3MT is a communication exercise that provides an opportunity for graduate students to communicate their scholarly research and creativity in just three minutes. It challenges graduate students to present their research in an engaging format that can be understood by an audience with no background in the research area.

To watch Jessica's presentation, please visit [here](#).

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Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Lakehead University Celebrates 16th annual (and first virtual) Research & Innovation Week

Lakehead University celebrated its 16th annual and 1st virtual Research & Innovation Week from March 1-5 in Thunder Bay and Orillia. Exploring the timely theme “Our Changing World”, Research & Innovation Week presented over 25 events, including keynote talks, student poster and oral competitions, faculty presentations, and panel discussions.

The opening ceremonies included virtual greetings from government representatives and special guests and a keynote talk by Bob McDonald, longtime host of CBC’s *Quirks and Quarks*, who provided an optimistic view of how we can survive the third millennium. The week also featured a series of sessions on the role of research and innovation in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Throughout the week, the Ignite video series showcased four research projects that celebrate the ongoing research that is taking place on both our campuses. Over 2200 people viewed the videos on Twitter (@LakeheadRsrch) and Facebook (Lakehead University Research & Innovation).

A highlight of the week was the Research & Innovation Awards of Excellence virtual reception, which was held on March 4 to celebrate the exceptional achievements of professors, partners, and students. The 2021 Distinguished Researcher Awards, the highest honour conferred by Lakehead University for research and scholarly activity, were presented to:

- **Dr. Edward Rawana**, Professor, Department of Psychology and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine; Director, Centre of Education and Research on Positive Youth Development
- **Dr. Mitchell Albert**, Professor, Chemistry; Lakehead University/Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute Chair

More information about the 2021 Distinguished Researchers and a full list of award recipients can be found [here](#).





Local and Global Partnerships

Dr. Wilson Wang Receives NSERC Alliance Grant

Dr. Wilson Wang, Professor in the department of Mechanical Engineering, received \$468,000 from the NSERC Alliance program and partner, Wilderness North (\$270,000 cash + \$198,000 in-kind) to develop a new helicopter aerial refuelling system.

NSERC Alliance grants encourage university researchers to collaborate with partner organizations, which can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors. In collaboration with Wilderness North, Dr. Wang will develop new technology and intelligent tools for Helicopter Aerial Refueling (HAR), used for commercial applications such as in-fly exploration and search and rescue. The developed HAR will generate a revolutionary solution in helicopter refueling.

Launch of Industry 4.0: Automation Accelerator Pilot Program

The Office of Research & Innovation, and faculty researchers from Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, based at the Orillia campus, have partnered with County of Simcoe, Georgian College, and the Cities of Barrie and Orillia, to develop and launch a new pilot program called Industry 4.0: Automation Acceleration. The program aims to respond to an industry-expressed desire to acquire knowledge and training that will support them in smart manufacturing and new technology (such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and sensors). The pilot kicked off this month with almost 20 manufacturing companies and other local industry participants.

The program runs two mornings a week over three weeks from March 9 – 25. On March 16, Dr. Salimur Choudhury, Assistant Professor in Computer Science, delivered a presentation on artificial intelligence. On March 23, Dr. Waleed Ejaz, Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering, delivered a presentation on sensors and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIOT). The program will include opportunities for companies to have one-on-one sessions with Lakehead University and Georgian College personnel to discuss potential project ideas.

For more information, please see: <https://www.orilliamatters.com/local-news/automation-accelerator-program-offered-to-local-manufacturers-3453724>.



Centre for Education and Lifelong Learning partners with Anishnabek Employment and Training Services

CELL is partnering with the Anishnabek Employment and Training Services to bring Humanities 101 to nine indigenous communities north of Thunder Bay. Participants from both Simcoe County and these communities began this program on March 1st.

Over 70 households gathered online for "Tea with the Dames," a discussion of the documentary film and of Mariposa Arts Theatre, and a celebration of the 100th birthday of one of Orillia's great dames, Sue Mulcahy. Sue was Lakehead Orillia's first Civitas Award recipient. A portion of the proceeds raised at this event went to the Lakehead Student Travel Abroad Bursary Program.

The Ontario Youth Naturalist Program is in full swing with partners from Parks Canada and the Simcoe County District School Board, and this programming will extend with a concentration on Turtle Conservation at Elmvale District Secondary School beginning in April.

The next Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) series began on March 24th. Pivot(al): Possibilities for a Post-pandemic world, was developed in consultation with seniors from Thunder Bay and with support from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation. The series will feature Lakehead University's Dr. Charles Levkoe and Dr. Max Haiven, as well as Drew Hayden Taylor, Linda McQuaig, and Maude Barlow.

Honouring Sue Mulcahy's 100th Birthday

In partnership with the Orillia Museum of Art and History, Lakehead Orillia planned and participated in a birthday celebration in the form of a drive-by parade in front of the home of Orillia community icon Sue Mulcahy who turned 100 years young on March 14.

Mulcahy was elected to the Orillia City Council in 1963 and 1964 and the future of the community's youth was always on her mind. In 1965, she and some likeminded advocates formed the Simcoe College Foundation. They lobbied the provincial government with relentless determination for nearly three decades. Several times they came close to victory – but their dream eluded them.

Years later, Mulcahy learned that her hometown would finally get its longed-for school when Lakehead Orillia opened its doors in 2006. Since that time, Sue Mulcahy has been a stalwart supporter of Lakehead. In recognition of her incredible efforts, Lakehead Orillia awarded her with the University's first Orillia Civitas Award in 2008.



Lakehead-Confederation-Canadore MOU will develop transfer opportunities for Indigenous students

The presidents from Lakehead University, Confederation College, and Canadore College signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) via Zoom on Friday, February 12 to encourage and facilitate educational opportunities for Indigenous transfer students.

Click [here to watch the virtual signing event](#).

The five-year MOU comes after these post-secondary institutions collaborated on several recent projects funded by the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) exploring the enhancement of wrap-around supports for Indigenous transfer students. These are team-based supports that ensure the post-secondary institutions understand each student's strengths and provide a network of holistic support.

The schools will establish an internal and external working group. The external working group will consist of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, the Coordinator of Indigenous Student Services Centre, and the Coordinator of Indigenous Outreach and Recruitment at Lakehead University, who will meet with designate(s) from Canadore College and designate(s) from Confederation College to make progress on the principles of the MOU.

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Meeting with elected officials to discuss impact of travel restrictions on international students



On February 19, Dr. Moira McPherson, President and Vice Chancellor, Lakehead University met with Minister Hajdu to discuss the travel restrictions surrounding Covid-19 and their potential impact on Lakehead University's International students. They also discussed possible other changes including the study permit potentially needed for programs under 6 months in duration.

On February 12, Lakehead University submitted a pre-budget submission to Ontario Minister of Finance the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy. In this submission we highlighted about the unique role we play in our regions and the urgency of strategic infrastructure as we look to recovery.

On February 8, Dr. Moira McPherson, President and Vice Chancellor, Andrew P. Dean, Vice President, Research and Innovation and Richard Longtin, Government Relations, Director met with **MP Eric Melillo**, a proud alumnus, to discuss Lakehead University. They highlighted our research agenda, our Gichi Kendaasiwin building and the support we have received from FedNor.

International MOUs Signed with Chile, Bangladesh, and Colombia

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation has recently signed MOUs with partners in Chile, Bangladesh, and Colombia. Two of the MOUs with Chile and two in Bangladesh were initiated in support of Lakehead faculty members.

In December, the Canada and Latin America Research & Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) consortium, of which Lakehead University is the host institution, signed an MOU with Colombia Challenge Your Knowledge (CCYK), a network of 31 public and private universities across Colombia, whose mission is to promote Colombia as an international destination for higher education and research excellence. CCYK members are accredited by the Colombian Ministry of Education as high-quality institutions. CALAREO is partnering with CCYK to develop opportunities for research collaboration and mobility programs for faculty and students. On February 12, CALAREO presented the research strengths of the member universities to the General Assembly of CCYK.



Lakehead International launches Lakehead Global Certificate

Lakehead University International is excited to announce the launch of the Lakehead Global Certificate (LGC) program.

A specialized, non-academic co-curricular program, the Lakehead Global Certificate provides a unique opportunity to recognize and celebrate Lakehead students who, through their work on campus and involvement in the community, are building their cultural intelligence, global awareness and intercultural communication skills.

Unlike a traditional certificate program, the LGC is earned at no cost to the student and is completed during their undergraduate or graduate studies. The program is designed so that students can demonstrate cultural intelligence and intercultural skills to potential employers or on applications to future academic programs.

Students can achieve one of three levels that will indicate their commitment to global learning: Global Inquirer, Global Explorer, Global Citizen. Points are awarded for each level under six pillars: Peer to Peer Engagement, Community Involvement, and Intercultural Education and Awareness, International and Global Experience, Diverse Work Experience, and Language Learning.

Lakehead International hosted an information session on Thursday, January 21st for individuals, organizations and businesses interested in learning more about how these experiences are helping our students and how to get involved.

More information can be found on our website at <https://lakeheadu.ca/lgc>.

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#ITSTARTS at Lakehead University

Throughout the month of March, the County of Simcoe celebrated the annual #ITSTARTS campaign - a campaign to inspire individuals to take action on embracing and celebrating diversity within our vibrant, growing communities. As a supporter of the County of Simcoe, we were thrilled to be a community champion, again, for the 2021 campaign. As a community champion, Lakehead University was assigned the week of March 15-19 for the outreach to our campus and broader communities. Lakehead University International and our Office of Human Rights and Equity hosted an event each day of the week. Given #ITSTARTS is completely virtual this year, we embraced the opportunity to have both Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses involved for the first time.

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Lakehead joins *MapIT* Learning Collaborative to improve student transfer journeys

Lakehead University has been chosen to be part of the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer's (ONCAT) second *MapIT* Learning Collaborative with nine other colleges and universities.

The *MapIT* Project aims to examine the entire transfer process: the steps students take when transferring schools in Ontario and the 'behind-the-scenes' workflow steps post-secondary institutions (PSIs) take when receiving applications.

Participating PSIs connected through knowledge-sharing sessions and received a collated map of the transfer journey – from both staff and student perspectives – to reveal pain-points, bottlenecks, and other opportunities for improvement to administrative and communications activities.

After gathering feedback from the first cohort, ONCAT confirmed the next group of PSIs in December 2020: Lakehead University, Centennial College, La Cité Collégiale, Northern College of Applied Arts and Technology, Sault College, Sheridan College, Trent University, the University of Guelph, and the University of Windsor. HESA (Higher Education Strategy Consultants) will return as a consultant.



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CELL secures SSHRC grant

The Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) was successful in securing a SSHRC Connection grant (\$24,589) for "Truth and Reconciliation in our Community: Enabling Indigenous-led Dialogue". This initiative will begin in March and culminate in a fall lecture series and several community-led projects enacting Truth and Reconciliation later in 2021.

With the support of the Community Foundation of Orillia and Area, CELL will be starting a pilot project with three classes in the Simcoe County District School Board: The Ontario Youth Naturalist Program. This modular and stackable program enables youth in the Specialist High Skills Major (Environment) stream to work with Lakehead professors, CELL instructors, and Parks Canada partners for reach-ahead opportunities and ICE (Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship) projects. Students in this program are also eligible for a \$500 bursary to Lakehead University.



Social Responsibility

Lakehead's Meal Exchange Chapter and LUSU Food Resource Centre Receive Food Banks Canada Grant

The Lakehead University Meal Exchange Chapter (LUMXC) is very excited to announce that we were successful applicants for the 2020 Rural and Northern Capacity Fund.

With the funds received we have been able to purchase \$12,000 in gift certificates from local businesses (Maltese Grocery, The Cheese Encounter, Thunder Bay Country Market, Superior Seasons) that support local food producers. These gift cards are currently being distributed to Lakehead University Thunder Bay students who are facing food insecurity and are in need of assistance.

This is why LUMXC is so grateful to be able to do this work. Knowing what we do has helped even one student and knowing that students are able to purchase healthy food that can sustain them makes the work worthwhile. We're so thankful that we've been able to make even a small difference in these students' lives.

At LUMXC we anticipate that we will be increasing the number of grant applications that we will be making in the coming year. In doing so, we hope to be able to support more students dealing with food insecurity. We will also continue our work with our parent charity, Meal Exchange, to increase awareness and to address systemic issues which create inequities that lead to post-secondary student food insecurity. Only when food insecurity is eliminated for all and food literacy is enhanced for all will our work truly be done.

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

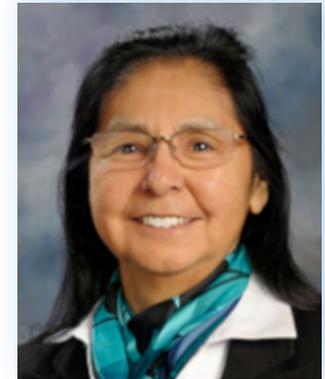


Bora Laskin Faculty of Law launches Indigenous Law and Justice Institute

Lakehead University's Bora Laskin Faculty of Law will receive up to \$437,139 to launch an Indigenous Law and Justice Institute, the *Maamawi Bimosewag – They Walk Together*, and expand its law program, thanks to the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program offered by Canada's Department of Justice. On April 1, the Indigenous Law and Justice Institute opened and began its mandate to advance community collaboration and curriculum innovation in Indigenous law at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law.

This funding allows Lakehead University to meet call to action #50 in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report — collaborating with the federal government to establish an Indigenous law institute for the development, use, and understanding of Indigenous laws and access to justice in accordance with the unique cultures of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

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



Professor Nancy Sandy is the inaugural Director of Lakehead's new Indigenous Law and Justice Institute.

Lakehead launches 24/7 global peer support network *TalkCampus* as part of 2021 Wellness Strategy

Lakehead University is the latest institution to commit to supporting the well-being of students by choosing to partner with innovative mental health solution, *TalkCampus*. In 2021, Lakehead University launched its new Wellness Strategy to support the needs of students, recognizing that investing in the enhancement of health and wellness will better position students for success in the classroom.

With *TalkCampus*, students have free access to instant, ongoing peer support via their smartphones within a familiar and intuitive network. While traditional support services have a vital role to play for student mental health, online peer support plays a powerful role for upstream, early and ongoing intervention. *TalkCampus* is a proactive and preventative mental health solution that is inclusive to all students, whether on campus or studying remotely. With so many students studying at home in isolation, having someone to talk to and share with can make all the difference.

[Click here to view the TalkCampus pamphlet...](#)

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CALAREO Pursues Research Collaborations with the State of Yucatan

Members of the Canada and Latin America Research and Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) Consortium participated in a virtual meeting with representatives of SIIES (Department of Research, Innovation and Higher Education in the State of Yucatan), and SIIDETEY (a consortium of 9 research centres and 7 universities in the State of Yucatan).

SIIDETEY (Sistema de Investigación, Innovación y Desarrollo Tecnológico del Estado de Yucatán) was established in 2008 to enhance the training of highly qualified personnel, as well as scientific research, innovation, and technological development. The meeting was facilitated by the Canadian Embassy in Mexico to assist in establishing research collaborations between Canada and Mexico on health, environmental, community development, and Indigenous issues. The meeting included presentations from SIIES and CALAREO, as well as four individual research presentations from CALAREO members.

Dr. Rebecca Schiff and Dr. Salimur Choudhury presented from Lakehead.



LUNSA hosting virtual Powwow

The Lakehead University Native Students Association (LUNSA) hosted a virtual powwow celebration on Saturday, March 20 from 3 to 7 pm. The powwow was broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook.

The annual powwow is LUNSA's signature event that showcases tremendous talent and entertainment, while reinforcing traditional aspects of Indigenous culture such as drumming, dancing, singing, and giving thanks.

LUNSA is honoured to have Gene Nowegejick as the Elder and Todd Genno as the Master of Ceremonies. LUNSA will be celebrating resiliency at their cultural celebration this year.

LUNSA is a volunteer LUSU club. The club's goals are to promote the spirit of unity among Indigenous students at Lakehead University through social, cultural, and recreational events in addition to promoting cultural awareness between club members and the greater student population.

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





Black History Month

Lakehead University International (LUI) and the Office of Human Rights and Equity (OHRE), in collaboration with many on-campus and off-campus community groups, invited all to celebrate Black History Month throughout the entire month of February.

The theme is “Where we started,” which begins with a dialogue celebrating the past, followed by conversations about where we are going, and events will wrap up discussing where we need to be and how we will get there together. Groups participating in virtual events include the Caribbean and African Multicultural Association of Thunder Bay (CAMUT), the African Caribbean Student Association (AFCASA) and the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association (TBMA).



Black History Month kicked off on Friday, February 5th online through Zoom with a Black Alumni panel discussion facilitated by the following Lakehead Black alumni: Moffat Makuto (one of Lakehead’s first Black student graduates), Bassie Kargbo, Tomi Akinyede, and Bobbi Eegunniike.

This alumni panel is being facilitated by another Black alumni and Black international student service professional, Lateefah Olatunde. The panel includes a community welcome from Dr. David Barnett, Lakehead’s Provost and Vice-President (Academic). This discussion provided audience members with a chance to learn about Lakehead’s Black student experience from some of the University’s first Black students.

Visit for more information, please visit [Lakehead’s University’s Black History Month Celebration website](#).

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

Harold G. Fox Lecture Series welcomed Chair of the Civil Resolution Tribunal

On January 26, Lakehead University welcomed Shannon Salter as its Harold G. Fox Lecture Series guest. Salter, the Chair of British Columbia’s Civil Resolution Tribunal and adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia’s Allard School of Law, discussed the way COVID-19 forced courts around the world to move online and what this could mean for the justice system. She described the growing consensus that it’s time to digitally transform the justice system and if this will actually increase access to justice.

The Civil Resolution Tribunal is Canada’s first online tribunal resolving small claims, condominium disputes, and motor vehicle accident disputes.



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Hospital establishes vaccination clinic at Lakehead Thunder Bay

From tbnewswatch.com on February 11, 2021...

The head of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre says the facility is setting up a vaccination centre at the Bora Laskin building at Lakehead University. Rhonda Crocker-Ellacott, president and CEO at the hospital, confirmed the move, saying it will allow the vaccination capacity to ramp up to about 500 – when they have ample supply of vaccines to hit that number.



“We’re anticipating mid next week to be shifting our vaccine operation from our Health Sciences Centre over to Lakehead University. The whole idea behind that is we’re tapped out at about 168 vaccinations a day at the Health Sciences Centre, whereas we can likely do upward of 500 vaccines a day at Lakehead University,” Crocker-Ellacott said on February 11th.

[Click here to read the complete story...](#)

Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council changes and names the new Chair

Lakehead University’s Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) has recently undergone a series of transformations following a thorough review of its bylaws, including revisions to its name, its mandate, and its membership.

The OIEC meets several times a year together as a Council, and also with Lakehead’s President, to discuss and advise on issues related to Indigenous post-secondary education opportunities. The renewed focus elevates the opportunities for membership and input from Indigenous organizations and members at large.

Lakehead University’s Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) recently named Valerie Stortini as its new Chair.

In alignment with the University’s Strategic and Academic Plans, the OIEC conveys the interests and concerns of Indigenous communities and serves as a channel of communication between Indigenous peoples and the University regarding issues that affect Indigenous post-secondary education.

To learn more about the OIEC, visit lakeheadu.ca/about/sg/ogimaawin-indigenous-education-council-oiec-/about.

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