

## Report on the April 1, 2025 Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) Meeting

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

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**OIEC Members:** *Precious Anderson - Member-At-Large (Chair); Robert Atastise - Member At Large; Dr. David Barnett - Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Lakehead University); Denise Baxter - Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives (Lakehead University); Kathy Beardy - Nishnawbe Aski Nation; Alecia Boshcoff - Fort William First Nation; Charles Brown - Member At Large; Alicia Cameron - Member-At-Large; Paul Capon - Matawa First Nations; Tammy Chamberlain - Indigenous Student Member (Orillia); Tyler Goode - Indigenous Student Member (Thunder Bay); Lisa Harris (OIEC Advisors Committee Chair); Thomas Kehoe - Board of Governors (Lakehead University); Arlene Merkley (Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council); Dr. Sharla Peltier - Indigenous Faculty Member (Lakehead University); Senator Grant Robbins (Elder, Non Voting); Dr. Linda Rodenburg - Orillia Principal (Lakehead University); Dr. Gillian Siddall - President and Vice-Chancellor (Lakehead University, Non Voting); Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay - Metis Nation of Ontario (Vice-Chair)*

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The OIEC held a virtual meeting on April 1, 2025.

The following items of business were on the agenda:

### **Engagement Session: Lakehead's Next Sustainability Plan**

Ledah McKellar - Sustainability Coordinator, Office of Sustainability at Lakehead led a session to gather feedback from the OIEC to help guide the Office of Sustainability and the steering committee in the development of the second Sustainability Plan. Members share their thoughts about:

- What significant sustainability goals or actions would you like to see Lakehead achieve over the next 5 years?
- What emerging sustainability issues should the new plan address?
- Where should Lakehead be in 5 years with regard to sustainability?
- What environmental/social practices would make the biggest difference at Lakehead, internally or externally?
- How can we integrate sustainability into our daily operations and decision-making processes?
  - Many felt sustainability is not just an environmental/financial issue but equally a program, service and capacity issue for students and families from a First Nations perspective.

### **2025-2030 Strategic Plan Endorsement**

The OIEC received a presentation highlighting the collaborative development of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. In April 2024, the OIEC participated in the process and offered valuable insights that were considered.

The draft 2025-2030 Strategic Plan was shared with the group, and as a best collegial governance practice, the OIEC and the Senate are asked to endorse the Universities strategic plans before final approval from the Board of Governors. By consensus, the OIEC endorsed the 2025-2023 Lakehead University Strategic Plan.

### **OIEC Nominating Committee Recommendations**

- The OIEC approved that Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay be reappointed as the Métis Nation of Ontario Member for a 3-year term, commencing July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.
- The OIEC approved that Charles Brown be reappointed as a Member-At-Large for a 3-year term, commencing July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

It was noted that the remaining vacancies will be filled over the summer.

### **Approval of the 2025-2026 OIEC Meeting Schedule**

The OIEC approved the 2025-2026 OIEC meeting schedule:

- Tuesday, October 7, 2025
- Tuesday, November 25, 2025
- Tuesday, February 3, 2026
- Tuesday, March 31, 2026

### **OIEC Chair Elections**

The OIEC approved the reappointment of Precious Anderson as Chair and Dr. Bryana Scott-Kay as Vice-Chair, for a two-year term.

### **Policy Review and Consultation**

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

- Articulation Agreement Policy and Procedures
- Animal Emergency Response Plan

All feedback will be shared with the Administration for consideration, during the regular review process for these policies.

### **Sharing Circle**

Members were invited to share information about projects, work, accomplishments, concerns, upcoming events, etc., happening within their organizations and/or departments.

### **Other Reports/Updates and Informational Items Received**

- Ogimaawin Committee-Internal Update
- President's April 2025 Report
- Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Report from the Chair on Truth and Reconciliation
- Joint SAC/OIEC Sub-committee Report

The next virtual OIEC meeting is scheduled to take place on October 7, 2025, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm (ET).