



Report on the February 3, 2026 Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC) Meeting

From: Marcie Morrison - Associate University Secretary

OIEC Members: *Precious Anderson - Member-At-Large (Chair); Dr. Gillian Balfour - Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Lakehead University); Denise Baxter - Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives (Lakehead University); Charles Brown - Member At Large; Paul Capon - Matawa First Nations; Tammy Chamberlain - Indigenous Student Member (Orillia); John Dixon (Delico Anishinabek Family Care); Tyler Goode - Indigenous Student Member (Thunder Bay); Chief Melvin Hardy (Anishinabek Nation, North of Superior Region); Wendy Houston - Member-At-large; Arlene Merkley - Barrie South Simcoe Métis Council; Michael Nitz - Lakehead University Board of Governors; 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); Dr. Anita Vaillancourt (Chair of the Ogimaawin Committee-Internal)*

The OIEC held a virtual meeting on February 3, 2026.

The agenda included the following topics:

Sharing Circle

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

Update from the Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives

The Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, provided an update on key activities, including reflections from an Indigenous transfer panel, promotion of the newly launched Social Justice master's program in Orillia (now offered on both campuses), and a debrief of her presentation at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) in November. She also shared updates on the Gichi Kendaasiwin rejuvenation project, noted that all Indigenous Initiatives staff positions are now filled, and promoted the Powwow on March 13–14 at the LU Hangar and a one-day Orillia event on March 14.

Reappointment to the Board of Governors Recommendation

- *MOVED to reappoint Dr. Bryanna Scott-Kay to the Board of Governors for a 3-year term. Approved by consensus. CARRIED BY CONSENSUS*

Notice of Expiring Terms and Update on Current Vacancies - For Information

It was noted that the OIEC Nominating Committee will be meeting to work on filling current and upcoming vacancies.

1. Internal Members:

- Michael Nitz, Board of Governors Member, recommended by the Board (Term: July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, eligible for 8 more years)
- Tyler Good, Indigenous Student Member, recommended by LUSU (Term: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026, eligible for 6 more years)
- Tami Chamberlain, Indigenous Student Member, recommended by LUSU (Term: November 12, 2023-June 30, 2026, eligible for 6 more years)
- Dr. Sharla Peltier, Indigenous Faculty Member, recommended by the Senate (Term: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026, eligible for 6 more years)

2. External Members Not Required by the Bylaws:

- Paul Capon (Term: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026, eligible for 3 more years)
- Arlene Merkley (Term: October 31, 2023 - June 30, 2026, eligible for 6 more years)
- Precious Anderson (Term: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026, eligible for 3 more years)

3. Current Vacancies Required by the Bylaws - For Information

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)
- Grand Council Treaty #3
- Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (Simcoe County)
- Fort William First Nation
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Ontario Native Women's Association

Review of Lakehead's Traditional Land Acknowledgement

The group discussed whether Lakehead's formal institutional land acknowledgement should be updated to include Simcoe County, and institutional versus personal acknowledgements. Members generally agreed that Lakehead should maintain a unified acknowledgement reflecting all campus locations, while also encouraging acknowledgements that are specific to place and personally informed. The committee agreed that further work is required, and Denise Baxter will bring this item forward again, including options to expand the institutional acknowledgement and strengthen guidance and learning supports.

Policy Review Engagement

In alignment with the University's Policy Governance Framework, as part of the review process for University-wide policies, the OC-I and the OIEC will be engaged during the review cycle for some policies, 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 policy:

- Contribution to Teaching Award Policy

All feedback will be shared with the policy owner(s) for consideration during the regular review process.

Other Reports and Informational Items Received

- *Ojimaawin Committee-Internal*

- Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Report from the Chair on Truth and Reconciliation
- Report from the Board of Governors
- Report from the Senate
- Report from the Joint SAC/OIEC Sub-committee

The next virtual OIEC meeting is scheduled to take place on March 31, 2026, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm (ET).