

Report on the November 25, 2025 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); 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 November 25, 2025.

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.

Introduction to the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Themes with an Indigenous Focus

Members received a comprehensive presentation from the Administration outlining the initiatives related to advancing Truth and Reconciliation, all of which are strategically embedded within the five core themes of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. A discussion period followed the presentation. Dr. Heather Murchison left the meeting.

Site Plan Endorsement - Gichi Kendaawswin

Members received a presentation from the Administration that included a site analysis and conceptual design for the Gichi Kendaasiwin project. A discussion period followed the presentation.

- *BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC endorsed the proposed Site 4 Plan.*

Internal and External Appointments

- *BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC approved the appointment of Wendy Houston as an Indigenous Member-at-Large for a three-year term, commencing immediately to June 30, 2028.*

- *BY CONSENSUS, the OIEC approved the appointment of John Dixon to the Senate Undergraduate Scholarships and Bursaries Committee, for a two-year term commencing immediately to June 31, 2027.*

Policy Review Engagement

In alignment with the University's Policy Governance Framework, as part of the policy 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:

- Employment Recruitment Policy

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

Other Reports/Updates and Informational Items Received

- Report on Resolutions Adopted Without a Meeting:
 - *“MOVED that the OIEC appoint Melvin Hardy as an External Voting Member on the OIEC, for a 3-year term, commencing immediately to June 30, 2028.*
 - *MOVED that the OIEC appoint John Dixon as a Member-at-Large on the OIEC, for a 2-year term, commencing immediately to June 30, 2027.”*
- President's November 2025 Written Report
- Report from the Office of Indigenous Initiatives
- Report from the Chair on Truth and Reconciliation
- Reports from the Board of Governors
- Reports from the Senate
- Call for Research Ethics Board Members: Indigenous Community Representative(s)
- Call for Fellow of the University Nominations

The next virtual OIEC meeting is scheduled to take place on February 3, 2026, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm (ET).