

**Report to the Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council
Highlights from the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives
November 1st, 2016 to January 15, 2017**

Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) (Dr. M.A. (Peggy) Smith)

Key Developments

- Indigenous Content Requirement: Reached out to President of University of Winnipeg to arrange joint meeting to discuss implementation of the Indigenous Content Requirement. President Annette Trimbee will visit Lakehead in the New Year.
- Volunteered to sit on an Aboriginal advisory group to the Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development re changing the provincial funding for Aboriginal initiatives. First meeting will be held January 23, 2017.
- Planning a workshop during Research & Innovation week Friday, Mar 3-Thursday, Mar 7, 2017 on the need for an Indigenous Research Institute at Lakehead University, as well as reissuing a call for nominations for the Indigenous Partnership Research Award
- Discussions about changing Smudging Policy—need input from OAGC
- Discussion about Kendaasiwin building name—need input from OAGC. Establishment of Kendaasiwin Steering Committee with architect and senior administration reps as part of getting building “shovel ready” and appointment of User Group to advise architect on design issues
- Job posted for Indigenous Curriculum Specialist. Interviews to be carried out in January 2017
- ACSS organized and hosted *Cultural Competency Training* facilitated by the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres on January 13, 2017 for 39 staff, faculty, students and community members of Lakehead University.
- The Kairos Blanket Exercise has been delivered by Jerri-Lynn Orr, Anna Chief and other AI staff across the university and city, including to judges and lawyers at the Gladue Summit in Thunder Bay, November 29

- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, through their Post-Secondary Partnerships Program, has provided \$25,000 to explore changes to the Native Access Program

Administration

AI staff meet weekly first thing on Monday mornings. This provides an opportunity for sharing and supporting each other in our work.

As of December 23, I am free of teaching duties and can focus on my duties as VP AI, although I have continued responsibility for graduate students and research projects. I participated in a research visit to Haida Gwaii during Reading Week in October and have attended two Forest Stewardship Council meetings in November and December.

I met with Rita Blais and Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux to review the ***budgets for Aboriginal Initiatives***. Combined with my reviews with individual AI staff about their program budgets, I am now much more familiar with the AI budget.

Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux worked with Rita Blais to complete the ***mid-year financial report for the Postsecondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL)*** for 2016-17 which was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) on October 26, 2017.

I worked with Jerri-Lynn Orr, Coordinator of Native Access Program, to develop a workplan for ***INAC Post-Secondary Partnership Program*** funding to improve the Native Access Program. A report will be prepared for the end of March.

Meetings continued on the ***Kendaasiwin*** building over details to get the building “shovel ready” as per NOHFC funds and to continue lobbying both provincial and federal governments to make a funding commitment. There has also been discussion about what the name of the building should be—“Chi Kendaasiwin” or “Kendaasiwin Rendezvous Centre”. The Elders Council discussed the name at their meeting on November 25 and think the name should stay as “Chi Kendaasiwin”. They suggested that perhaps the Great Hall could be named the Rendezvous Hall. They pointed out that historically the Métis in this region spoke Anishinaabemowin and that the first peoples in this region were the Anishinaabe. A proposal for federal funding for Kendaasiwin has been prepared by Richard Longtin for the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund of Heritage Canada. A user group is being established to provide advice to the architect on building details to properly support people who will be using various spaces.

The ***Council of Ontario Universities*** is compiling a publication, ***Deepening our Relationship: An Overview of Indigenization-related Activities on our Campuses***. Lakehead’s initial contribution was very meagre and we were given an

opportunity to update and expand. That expanded report was submitted at the end of October. The publication will be released on January 27, 2017.

I attended the **Council of Ontario Universities Reference Group on Aboriginal Education** on Nov 16-17 at Laurentian University. Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (OMAESD) staff attended to discuss changes in provincial funding for Aboriginal initiatives. Changes are not likely to occur in the next fiscal year; most likely PEFAL funding will be extended for one more year at current levels. Attended a special meeting of the COU Aboriginal Reference Group on January 10, 2017 at which the OMAESD gave another update, with very little clarity about future funding. The Ministry is setting up a Phase II Implementation Plan Development Committee, with the first meeting scheduled for January 23. I have been chosen as one of four COU Aboriginal Reference Group members to be on that committee. While Phase II has not been worked out, OMAESD will be looking at new funding arrangements, including linking Indigenous programming with universities' Strategic Mandate Agreements. One element to be reviewed is the Indigenous Student Bursaries (ISB). I worked with Josh Levac in Financial Aid to fill out an OMAESD survey on ISBs in which we recommended an increase in funding (current program funds only 50% of the identified need) and an increase in Indigenous involvement in decision making about the ISBs.

At the request of President Stevenson, I reviewed the **Roy Michano art collection** being stored at Big Thunder with Roly Martin of Fine Arts and three Elders—Beatrice Twance and Charlotte and Ernie Kwandabens. About 200 of the approximately 650 pieces will be sold to care for and frame the remaining pieces. We reviewed those paintings to be sold. About 200 paintings have been installed in various parts of both campuses. Several paintings have been hung in the new AI offices. The remaining pieces will find a home in the new Kendaasiwin building.

At the request of President Stevenson, Vice President Finance Kathy Pozihun, has been charged with reviewing **Lakehead's Cultural Protocol [Smudging] Policy**. The first meeting was held with the VP Finance, the VP AI, Elder Isabelle Mercier, ACSS Coordinator Yolanda Twance and Human Rights Officer Dreeni Geer. Yolanda Twance and myself developed and completed a matrix comparing policies across universities. The next step is to get input from the Elders Council and OAGC.

I prepared and submitted an Office of Aboriginal Initiatives **Report to the Strategic Management Agreement Report for 2015-2016** on November 4, 2016.

Administrative Assistant Ashley Dokuchie attended the **Banff Centre's Indigenous Women in Leadership Training workshop** December 5-9, 2016 with AMP

Coordinator Lisa Harris. The workshop focused on the issues, challenges and inequities facing Indigenous women and how to overcome them.

Meetings attended:

- Telepresence Funding Application (Dr. Brian Stevenson, 21 Oct)
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada funding to restructure Native Access Program (Nancy Luckai, Jerri-Lynn Orr, 21 Oct)
- Orillia Aboriginal Initiatives (Marian Ryks-Szelekovszky, VP (Student Affairs), Chris Glover, Director, Student Affairs at Orillia and Allysha Wassegijig, Aboriginal Mentorship and Learning Access Coordinator at Orillia—lots of good work being carried out by Allysha, 24 Oct)
- Meeting to review agenda for Ogimaawin Aboriginal Governance Council (Barb Eccles, 24 Oct)
- Advisors Committee for Ogimaawin Aboriginal Governance Council (25 Oct)
- Strategic Enrollment Management Committee (26 Oct)
- Meeting with Office of the University Secretariat re Senate/Board/O-AGC Liaison Event (31 Oct)
- Blanket Exercise, Orillia; (3 Nov)
- Senate Academic Committee (4 Nov)
- Educators seminar sponsored by AI with presentation on Kendaasiwin (4 Nov)
- Meeting with Dr. Rob Robson and four Indigenous Learning students to discuss concerns about the Indigenous Content Requirement
- Patty Hajdu announcement re funding for new research centre (10 Nov)
- Organizing meeting for Canada-Mexico Presidents gathering in June 2017 (11 Nov)
- Ogimaawin Aboriginal Governance Council (14 Nov)
- Senate Executive Committee (15 Nov)
- Council of Ontario Universities Aboriginal Reference Group (16-17 Nov)
- Maamwizing Conference on Indigeneity in the Academy, Laurentian University, including President's Panel (18-20 Nov)
- Sexual Violence Task Force (22 Nov)
- Tyson Gofton, NSERC Liaison, Research Office (22 Nov)
- Provost's Council (23 Nov)
- OAGC-Senate-Board of Governors event—facilitated discussion of Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (24 Nov)
- Research & Innovation Week planning meetings (25 Nov, 1 Dec)
- Elders Council (25 Nov)
- Food Security Meeting (29 Nov)
- Branden Te Hiwi, new faculty member Kinesiology, Maori (9 Dec)

- Finance Minister, Charles Sousa, on campus for tour of Telepresence classroom and viewing of Kendaasiwin video (9 Dec)
- Sharing the Boreal SSHRC Workshop, University of Winnipeg (14 Dec)
- Free, Prior & Informed Consent research meeting with Matawa First Nations (15 Dec)
- Cultural Protocol Policy review (15 Dec)
- First meeting of Advisory Board for Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (CESME) (19 Dec)
- Phone meeting with Chris Glover and Allysha Wassegijig at Orillia to discuss proposal for an Indigenous Learning Series and plans to erect a tepee and seek a land allocation for ceremonial purposes (19 Dec)
- Kendaasiwin Building Committee (21 Dec)
- OAGC Advisors Committee (3 Jan 2017)
- Senate Academic Committee (4 Jan)
- Kendaasiwin Steering Committee to establish a User Group (5 Jan)
- Council of Ontario Universities Aboriginal Reference Group (10 Jan)
- Josh Levac, Student Financial Aid, to discuss the provincial Indigenous Student Bursary (ISB) program and complete an Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development online survey on ISBs (11 Jan)
- Provost Task Force - Innovation and Excellence in Teaching, Technology and Learning (13 Jan)
- Indigenous Cultural Competency Training (13 Jan)

Academic

Jerri-Lynn Orr, myself and Allysha Wassegijig delivered the ***Kairos Blanket Exercise*** at Orillia to a mixed staff, student and community group, as well as to the Natural Resources Management 2054, Aboriginal Peoples and Natural Resources, class on Nov 2, 2016. I also had brief discussions with three Orillia faculty about the Indigenous Content Requirement, as well as Principal Kim Fedderson.

I met with Dr. Rob Robson and four ***Indigenous Learning*** students to hear their concerns about the ***Indigenous Content Requirement***. These included: need for more student input; difficulty students have challenging instructors who they think are misinterpreting Indigenous issues; concern about whether faculty teaching Indigenous content are willing to learn; unfair that instructors would rely on students to improve content; need for oversight on ICR courses and course outlines; concern that students and faculty will think the ICR of 18 hours is sufficient when it's only the beginning; need for continuing education for faculty; need for better consultation with Dept. of Indigenous Learning.

We have received about a dozen applications for the position of **Indigenous Curriculum Specialist**. On January 12, I began the review of those applications. The first meeting of the Search Committee was scheduled for January 16, 2017. Dr. Rob Robson, Chair of Indigenous Learning, and two students from IL are members of the Search Committee.

I attended the **Maamwazing: Indigeneity in the Academy conference** at Laurentian University. There were many presentations relevant to Indigenous content. I introduced myself to President Trimbee from the University of Winnipeg and plans are now underway for a visit to Lakehead to share the challenges of implementing the ICR.

Met with Tyson Gofton, **NSERC Liaison** in the Office of Research, to discuss possible Indigenous components for upcoming research projects.

I have been involved in two committees to plan for **Research and Innovation Week** March 3-9, 2017. One committee is organizing two sessions focused on sustainability. For the evening session, we are checking into an expert panel on Grassy Narrows and water/mercury contamination. The other workshop is to be held on March 8 from 2-4 pm on the issue of establishing an Indigenous Research Centre at Lakehead. We have invited three people to join us in a panel: Derek Jennings and Michelle Johnson from the Research for Indigenous Community Health (RICH) Center in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota (Duluth) and Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn of Simon Fraser University. Following our guest speakers' presentations, we will have workshop participants (faculty researchers, Indigenous community partners, students) discuss these questions:

1. Would an Indigenous Research Institute at Lakehead University improve outcomes for both researchers and Indigenous communities? (why)
2. If we see the need for an institute, what would it look like? (what)
3. How would we establish an institute (who, where, how)

Community Engagement

I reached out to Rosie Mosquito, who is the Chair of the Board of the **Aboriginal Institutes Consortium** (<http://www.aboriginalinstitute.com/>) and Director of Oshki-Pimach-O-Win. The AIs (Anishnabek Education Institute, First Nations Technical Institute, Iohahiio Akwesasne Adult Education, Six Nations Polytechnic Institute, Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education and Training Institute and Seven Generations Education Institute) have received a substantial increase in funding and a commitment of ongoing support from the Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. We work with Seven Gens and Oshki, in particular. The Consortium is preparing policy on effective partnerships with

mainstream colleges and universities. I have told Rosie Mosquito that the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives would be interested in being part of the process of developing this policy.

Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services (Yolanda Twance)

Prospective Students (Recruitment)

On November 11th, ACSS met with 12 students from the ***Keewaytinook Internet High School*** (KiHS). The students learned about programs and services available at Lakehead University and then took a tour of campus.

ACSS participated in the Student Success Centre's ***Fall Preview Day*** on December 6th. As part of the Student Life Expo, ACSS shared information on various academic, transitional, and cultural support services that are available for students, as well as information on the CLAN network. A total of 42 students stopped by for information.

On the mornings of November 30th and December 1st, ACSS attended the ***NAN Education Partnerships Program - Best Practices Forum*** with an information table and shared resources with conference participants on services and programs offered at Lakehead University.

On December 15th, ACSS provided cultural teachings on the sweat lodge ceremony with Elder Gene Nowegejick, at the sweat lodge site. Eighteen high school students and their teacher from ***St. Patrick's High School*** attended as part of their World Religions class. The teacher had organized a Religious Sites Tour around the city and this included a stop at Lakehead University to learn about our traditional teachings.

Student Services (Orientation, Academic, Financial, Social, Transitions, Mental Health)

ACSS has generated a ***list of peer tutors***. Call-outs continue to be made to all Aboriginal students indicating that they should contact ACSS if they require tutoring in any subject area. To date, ACSS has hired 12 tutors.

On November 2nd, in recognition of Treaty Week, the Transitions Advisor (Robin Sutherland) presented a film screening of Alanis Obomsawin's ***Trick or Treaty?*** A total of 20 students attended. The Transitions Advisor followed the film screening with a request to the library to compile treaty resources for students. The Northern Studies Resource Centre created a ***Treaties Resource Page for the Indigenous Learning Research Guide*** on the Lakehead University Library website for students to access. Following is the link: <http://libguides.lakeheadu.ca/c.php?g=412911&p=4046260>

On November 10th, the Transitions Advisor hosted an **Essay Writing Workshop** to support students with their academic writing abilities. A total of 10 students attended the workshop.

As part of the campus-wide Student Appreciation events, ACSS hosted a **Chili & Bannock Day** for all students on November 16th in the Aboriginal Student Lounge. A total of 60 students attended.

The Transitions Advisor helped to coordinate a **Graduate Studies Information Session** in the Aboriginal Student Lounge on November 17th. Three students attended to learn about the process of applying to graduate studies. The Transitions Advisor also helped to coordinate the attendance of 8 students at the **PARO Enterprising Women, The Power of Collaboration & Storytelling Workshop** on November 17th.

On November 24th, the Transitions Advisor, in collaboration with the Director of Security Services, hosted a **Lakehead University Security Information & Recruitment Session** in the Aboriginal Student Lounge. A total of 3 students attended and expressed an interest in applying for a part-time position as a security guard.

Also, as part of the campus-wide **Festivus Celebrations** linked to Student Appreciation activities, ACSS participated with a craft table in the Agora on November 29th, 30th and December 1st. A total of 63 students stopped by over the three days to make a beaded keychain which students were able to keep as a token of our appreciation for their choosing Lakehead University.

ACSS hosted a **Holiday Party** for students on December 2nd. Great food, holiday treats and prizes were available for students. A total 45 students enjoyed the festivities.

On December 12th, ACSS picked up **food donations** that were graciously collected by the following organizations: **Union of Ontario Indians, Nokiwin Tribal Council, Anishinabek Employment & Training Services, Anishnawbe Mushkiki, Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic, MPower North, Fort William First Nation, Pic Mobert First Nation, and Ontario First Nation Technical Services**. ACSS created 8 food boxes from the donated goods and students were asked to submit their name to enter a draw for 1 of the 8 boxes. A total of 77 students put their name forward, as being in need of food. This annual food donation is very much appreciated by all students and these organizations are to be commended for their part in helping to feed our students over the holidays.

ACSS attended the **7 Generations Education Institute Holiday Drop-In Lunch, Matawa Christmas Dinner, Aboriginal Initiatives Open House**, and the **LU**

Staff Holiday Party. These events were a wonderful opportunity to network while celebrating the holiday season with community colleagues and LU staff, faculty and students.

In collaboration with the part-time Aboriginal Student Counsellor (Rosan Wesley) and the Aboriginal Awareness Centre, the Transitions Advisor hosted **Sharing Circles** during the lunch hour of the last Tuesday of each month. During the first session to date, 5 individuals attended.

The Transitions Advisor is currently working on establishing and managing, the **Aboriginal Peer Mentor Program**. Student volunteers have signed up and an orientation session was held on January 10th. A total of 7 student volunteers have signed on to act as mentors for first year students. A second orientation session will be held soon, in order to provide volunteers with information about resources available to them in assisting the mentees.

On January 11th, ACSS welcomed new and returning students at the **ACSS Open House**. This was an opportunity for students to re-orient themselves to campus and to our services. It was a nice opportunity to meet fellow classmates, to meet staff and to learn again about the different services and events hosted by ACSS. A total of 43 students attended.

Student Cultural Services

On November 16th, ACSS celebrated and acknowledged **Louis Riel Day** with a workshop facilitated by Megan Muloin of the Metis Nation of Ontario. The Metis Infinity Strand Workshop was attended by 7 students who created a symbol of Metis strength and resiliency.

Elder-in-Residence Gerry Martin was available for student visits on November 9th, 10th, 24th, 30th, and December 8th. During these visits a total of 28 students dropped by for traditional counselling and/or traditional teachings. **Elder-in-Residence Beatrice Twance-Hynes** was also available for student visits on November 2nd and December 7th and in total 9 students dropped in to see her. **Elder Ella Gagnon** has hosted beading/craft circles on November 15th and 22nd and provided bannock for all students. A total of 9 students participated in these circles. On November 22nd and December 6th, **Elder Gene Nowegejick** held sweat lodge ceremonies with a total of 6 individuals in attendance. Regular sweat lodge maintenance occurs throughout the academic year.

Other

The ACSS Coordinator continues to attend **meetings** of **Student Affairs, Student Appreciation Working Group, the O-AGC Advisors Committee** and **the O-**

AGC. In addition, the Coordinator also attends the **Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) Student Success & Retention Sub-committee** meetings and the **Code Review Committee** meetings. Most recently, the ACSS Coordinator now attends the **Food Insecurity** meetings set by Student Affairs in order to begin to address this issue amongst students.

The ACSS Coordinator continues to host bi-monthly meetings with **First Nation Post-Secondary Education Counsellors** and continues to host First Nation post-secondary education counsellors on campus for regular weekly/monthly student visits in the Aboriginal Student Lounge. The regular First Nation Post-Secondary Education Counsellor meetings include planning and organizing the annual *Maadaadizi Orientation* event. The group has made a joint application for funding through the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund-Group Application process in the amount of \$32,600.00 to help subsidize and grow the event along with other student initiatives throughout the academic year.

ACSS hosted an **Elders Council Meeting** on November 25th. Noteworthy items included the need for Elders in various programs across campus, including the Faculty of Law, and the sale of some art pieces in the Roy Michano Art Collection.

ACSS attended the **Student Affairs' Retreat** on December 7th. The theme of the professional development was "Supporting Students". This was an opportunity for ACSS to network with colleagues and to learn more about our student body and how best to provide services in an ever changing time and demographic.

ACSS organized and hosted **Cultural Competency Training** on January 13th for staff and faculty of Lakehead University. The training facilitated by the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) is intended for organizations to obtain the necessary skills, knowledge, attitudes and values in order to foster meaningful and informed relationships with the Indigenous community. Learning outcomes include: develop a critical analysis of contemporary issues in order to increase cultural competency; show how contemporary issues are connected to historic context; explore how organizations can strengthen engagement with Indigenous peoples and organization to provide relevant services; provide participants with a basic understanding of how to interact with Indigenous communities; and share a culture-based framework for improving organizational cultural competence. A total of 47 staff, faculty and a few community members registered for the training but only 39 actually attended. Participants indicated that they learned a lot from the training and were happy for this opportunity to learn.

The Transitions Advisor, in addition to developing his own workshops, has been in contact with the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre to discuss the possibility of offering their **Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin Program** (I am a Kind Man) to our

students. The program's goal is "to encourage men to speak out and end all forms of violence toward women and to foster healthy relationships." Additionally, the Transitions Advisor has met with contacts to arrange for **Art Therapy** sessions for our students, as well as with individuals from the **Leave the Pack Behind Program** regarding their upcoming LTPB contest and traditional uses of tobacco. The transitions Advisor has also met with the English Language Centre about collaborating on events with the **English Innovations Program** in February and March. The Transitions Advisor attended an information webinar on a new **Indigenous Governance Course Pilot Project** being offered by Confederation College in February and March. As part of professional development, he has signed up to take the course. The Transitions Advisor attended the **Lakehead University's Report to the Community Luncheon** on November 23rd and received institutional updates. He also attended the **Board/Senate/O-AGC Social** on November 24th and participated in a Truth & Reconciliation exercise.

The Transitions Advisor attended and prepared for the **NAP Community & Culture Workshops** on the mornings of November 4, 11, 25, December 2, and 9 and on November 23rd he attended the **University Transitions Sharing Circle** to review students' struggles and how we, as staff, can assist NAP students. He also supported students by attending the **NAP/NNEP Family Christmas Feast** on December 5th.

Indigenous Outreach and Recruitment (Anna Chief)

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives is delighted to have a **Confederation College intern** working with our department until April 15th, 2017. The Indigenous Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator will be supervising the placement of Courtney Lee and hopes to give her the opportunity to participate and experience many of the on and off campus Aboriginal student and community events hosted by our department. The hope is that she will gain valuable work place experience and skills to assist her in her future career goals.

Courtney Lee is a proud member of Fort William First Nation and a 3rd year student of the Confederation College Business Marketing Program. She is interested in learning all there is to know about our departments and is open to participating in any learning opportunities you may have to offer. Courtney is looking to apply to our 4th year Bachelor of Administration with Lakehead for the 2017-18 academic year.

IOR will be attending the **2017 Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP) Annual General Assembly** (AGM) via video conferencing on January 24th, and 25th from Thunder Bay. As part of APSIP membership all members must attend one AGM a year either in person or another meeting or conference to stay a good standing member.

Lakehead University participates yearly in the APISP tour beginning in September. This year IOR was also the OUF booth manager for the APSIP group and will continue these duties unless APSIP changes these roles. Lakehead will continue to organize week one of the APSIP tour and will look at hosting a future AGM at the Orillia campus for summer 2017.

Dr. Brian Stevenson and Lakehead University will be hosting the 6th annual ***Canada Mexico Roundtable on Indigenous Higher Education*** on June 24th, 25th and 26th, 2017 on the Thunder Bay Campus with this year's event focused on Indigenous Entrepreneurship. The Roundtable was formed in 2012 and consists of ten Indigenous universities in Mexico and fifteen primarily undergraduate universities in Canada that focus on removing barriers to post-secondary education for Indigenous students and sharing best practices. IOR has been appointed as the cultural liaison for the Thunder Bay event and will be working in partnership with numerous campus departments to ensure a successful 2017 event. IOR attended the 2016 5th annual Canada Mexico Round Table in Mexico with Dr. Brian Stevenson to observe and take notes on the many different aspects to the organization and execution of the event in Mexico. Meetings will be ongoing as the ramp up to the event begins in the New Year. A meeting with the Chief Peter Collins of Fort William First Nation and Dr. Stevenson has been scheduled for January 18th, 2017 to discuss partnering on the upcoming event.

IOR ***met with 9 students*** in this reporting period. The student's needs were based around workload, program choices, and graduation. Other walk-in meetings were not recorded but concerns were centered on workload, stress and just general well being. All of the issues were dealt with in a timely manner with the support and assistance from appropriate student services and the advisors.

IOR and Enrollment Services partnered on the ***Educator's Seminar*** held on November 4th, 2016. The event was a wonderful success with over 30 participants from local and regional schools. The event was a combined event with invitations extended to both mainstream guidance counselors as well as Aboriginal counselors, tutors and liaisons from both the catholic and public school boards. This year one of our amazing successful Aboriginal students, Stephanie Seymour, a Natural Resources Management Ph.D. candidate, was featured as a keynote student speaker and was well received from the participants. She spoke about her journey as a student and the importance of the Aboriginal Supports and staff in her success. Another new addition to this year's event was Leona Scanlon of Nishnawbe Education who spoke about the Aboriginal Post-Secondary funding processes and guidelines. This new piece had positive reviews as the counsellors find the process challenging as there is no streamlined process to First Nation band funding. IOR and Enrolment services is already working on the Fall 2017 Educators Seminar line up which will again be a partnership approach.

IOR met with Alumni Relations to discuss resurrecting the **Aboriginal Alumni Chapter** web page and the possibility of partnership on the addition of an Aboriginal Alumni emblem on the Alumni scarves handed out at convocation. The idea of adding the Aboriginal Alumni logo to the existing scarves was discussed as a way to recognize self-identified Indigenous graduates at convocation. I have sought quotes and we are awaiting the first convocation meeting to be called so that the idea can be shared with the organizing committee. Aboriginal graduates would have the option to self-id and request a special scarf to be part of the pinning ceremony. The scarves would not be altered from their current design but would see the addition of the Aboriginal Alumni logo to one of the side.

NAP and IOR facilitated the Kairos Blanket Exercise as part of the **2016 Student Affairs Retreat** organized by Enrollment Services. The overall theme of the retreat was on student services personnel with the Blanket Exercise designed to bring awareness to the barriers and challenges faced by Indigenous students affecting their success and influencing their choices. The exercise's goal is to bring awareness to the true history between Indigenous and Settler peoples and the longlasting effects of colonization and trauma.

I facilitated an art activity with students, faculty and staff at a **Northern Ontario School of Medicine Student and Elders Luncheon**. This was part of NOSM's ongoing student engagement activities. Eighteen people attended the lunch activity and IOR facilitated a DIY Indigenous candle piece for all in attendance. Participants were able to complete the entire activity and were pleased to have a finished project to take away.

External Committees

The **National Aboriginal Day Committee** is tasked with organizing the yearly local National Aboriginal Day festivities. The committee is made up of partners from numerous organizations such as the Lakehead Public Schools, Thunder Bay District Catholic School Board, City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, Old Fort William, Fort William First Nation and new to the committee this year is the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. The committee is tasked with the event coordination as well as fostering relationships with the community at large and educating the public to facilitate relationships. IOR will be responsible for the organization of this year's Pow Wow and will work with a spiritual advisor to ensure that all aspects of the event are covered. The committee will be meeting to discuss the Education portion of the day. Last year we arranged to have approximately 600 elementary school students visit the Lakehead University Thunder Bay campus. The committee is instrumental in fostering good relationships and raising the profile of Lakehead University in the community.

IOR will continue to attend and support the **Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth and Recognition Awards (AYARA)** committee for the May 5, 2017 event. An agenda for the evening has been set and a keynote speaker and performers are being confirmed. The call for nominations has gone out and a reminder will be sent in January. Meetings for 2017 will begin at the end of January and the 2017 event planning will begin. This year's budget is on course and 2017 fundraising events have been discussed by the committee with dates to be set.

Recruitment

AMP and IOR and Athletics are partnering on the organization and execution of the first **AMP Sports Day** to be held on campus during the visit of **Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario** on February 15, 2017. The goal of Sports Day is to engage students whose main interest is sports and who may not otherwise be engaged through the traditional academic activities offered by AMP. The AMP sports initiative was launched through discussions with local schools and their liaisons about offering additional activities to engage Indigenous students with a strong connection to sports. After some thought and discussion it was decided that the sport initiative would align perfectly with Lakehead well established Athletics program. We hope this initiative becomes a strong addition to the already highly successful AMP program

I met with 9 students from the **Oshki Pimache-O-Win Education and Training Institute Finance and Marketing Program** to discuss post-graduation choices, transfer credits and program choices. Students were interested in such things as amount of transfer credit, transfer process, student services, application and application deadlines.

IOR continues to assist with the **Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP)** on and off campus as a recruitment tool to encourage high school students to consider post-secondary education at Lakehead.

Tours of Lakehead University are organized in partnership with various departments and student service centers as requested. Tours generally include a general recruitment presentation and campus tour, as well as various hands-on faculty activities such as Chemistry, Biology, Engineering and Indigenous Learning as well as others as per visitors' requests. Tours have been conducted for **Long Lac 58 First Nation** (Grades 9 to 12, 15 students and 4 chaperones) and **Constance Lake First Nation** (Grades 9 to 12, 20 students and 3 chaperones).

Community Outreach

I met with 8 male youth between the ages 14 to 17 at the **Justice Roland Lester Youth Centre** to speak about opportunities, positive choices and education programs.

I spoke about educational pathways, my personal journey, CLAN and AMP, as well as the possible opportunity of facilitating the ***Walking the Path mask making*** activity. The mask making activity is a reflective activity where participants make masks from their own face casting. The activity is designed to assist participants to look at both their public and private identity and to assist with connecting the two.

IOR organized and assisted with the facilitation of ***Dennis Franklin Cromatry Leadership Day*** at Lost Cowboy Ranch.

Twelve students' grades 9 through 12 attended a 4-hour ***leadership through horsemanship workshop***. Student centered activities geared at confidence; leadership, positives choices, body language as well as hands on activities were facilitated.

I assisted with the facilitation of 6 ***Kairos Blanket Exercise*** activities in local elementary and high schools as well on campus for various departments. In addition NAP and IOR partnered with KAIROS to facilitate the first mass blanket exercise in Thunder Bay for the ***Gladue Summit*** hosted by the Ministry of the Attorney General. Ontario described reconciliation initiatives including establishment of an Elders Council to "provide advice to the Attorney General to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of Indigenous people and support the reclamation of Indigenous legal systems." Aboriginal Initiatives taped the Gladue blanket exercise to create a Lakehead University community engagement promotional video to be shared on the AI web page. It is posted on the Kairos site. The video was well received by KAIROS, as well as the Ministry of the Attorney General, and will be used by both organizations as well for promotion. KAIROS has invited NAP and IOR to be co-facilitators in a super mass blanket exercise to take place on ***Parliament Hill in Ottawa the first week of June 2017***.

IOR is assisting with the planning of the February 6th ***Civic Dialogue*** that will be taking place on campus as well as in the community. Lakehead is working with 6 other organizations such as Diversity Thunder Bay, Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, Racialized Young Professionals, Fort William First Nation Youth Infrastructure Program and the City of Thunder Bay Anti Racism Committee to pull the event together. IOR is responsible for the creation of the event marketing as well as the organization for the on and off campus event being held at the Ka-Na-Chi-Hi Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre.

As part of the Civic Dialogue, IOR is organizing a ***Community Discussion across Racial Divides*** session on campus on February 6 at 1:00 p.m. with ***Aftab Erfan*** who has been working with the tools of ***Deep Democracy*** in challenging organizational and community settings since 2006. Her PhD research was the first comprehensive attempt at applying and studying the Lewis Method of Deep Democracy in North

American. She has trained or coached over 200 people in these methodologies. She describes the event as: *“The intent of the conversation is not to find a single answer or truth to the challenges we face, but to share insights into our lives and work and to imagine new possibilities for Thunder Bay through an honest look at our shared and fragmented history.”*

Initiatives moving forward in 2017

Enrollment Services has contact NAP and IOR to continue the ***On Course Workshop training for the Enrollment Services*** team. NAP and IOR will be meeting with Amber McCart to discuss the additional 8 training sessions to be facilitated in half to full day sessions. On Course: Strategies for Creating Success in College and in Life is a highly effective learner-centered student success program. It offers a hands-on approach for learning essential life and study skills. The On Course program and principles are used by more than 100,000 students each year in student success courses, first-year experience programs, and inward-looking courses that promote student growth and self-awareness and self responsibility. The hope is to assist our University community to gain a better understanding of students’ needs.

Dilico has begun the ***Dilico Youth In Care Program***, a new initiative to engage their youth in care to promote positive choices and mentorship through community presenters from all four aspects of personal health. IOR has been invited to speak with the program youth to discuss educational pathways, program choices as well as the possible facilitation of additional activities such as mask making and the blanket exercise. Both the ACSS Transitions Advisor and the NAP Coordinator may also be presenting. The hope of the program is to create confidence and present the youth with positive choices and opportunities to promote personal success.

Native Access Program (Jerri-Lynn Orr)

Internal & External Relations

Met with Janine Landry from the ***Thunder Bay District Catholic School Board*** to discuss presenting the ***Blanket Exercise*** to the Board of Directors. The date has yet to be determined.

The NAP Coordinator had an interview with students from the University of Saskatchewan regarding research she was a part of. These students had to read ***Warrior Women: Remaking Post-Secondary Places through Relational Narrative Inquiry***.

Mr. Edward Bianchi, Project Manager for KAIROS Canada, contacted Ms. Jerri-Lynn, Native Access Program Coordinator to present a mass ***Blanket Exercise at the Gladue Summit*** that was held at the Valhalla Inn on November 29, 2016. Justice

Frank Iacobucci had contacted Ed to see if there were facilitators in Thunder Bay to present. Ed asked Jerri-Lynn to put together a facilitation team, as there were approximately 125 justices, lawyers and Gladue writers who participated in the Blanket Exercise. Ms. Jerri-Lynn Orr and Ms. Anna Chief recruited the following volunteers: Mr. Hazem Sabeh, Mr. Kiyanaw Chief, Ms. Stephanie Seymour, Mr. Dennis Orr, Mr. Andrew Orr, Mr. Brendan King-Osmulski, to facilitate alongside J. Orr, A. Chief and E. Bianchi. This was a tremendous experience and facilitators were invited to stay for the rest of the day for the Gladue Summit. There is a short video of the event available on the Kairos website at <http://kairosblanketexercise.org/kairos-blanket-exercise-gladue-summit-thunder-bay>.

The NAP Coordinator attended the ***Pathways for Indigenous Learners: Collaborating across Aboriginal Institutes, Colleges and Universities***, hosted by Confederation College for the mornings of Dec. 1 & 8, alongside Dr. Nancy Luckai, Deputy Provost.

The NAP Coordinator attended the ***ACSS Open House*** to welcome new and returning students to Lakehead University, held January 11th, 2017.

KAIROS Blanket Exercise (BE):

- Travelled to the Orillia Campus and presented the BE to Dr. Peggy Smith's NRMT (approx. 20 students) class and the Orillia Student Affairs Team (approx. 16 participants), presented alongside Ms. Allysha Wassegijig, Aboriginal Mentorship and Learning Access Coordinator.
- Presented the BE to the Grade 7/8 class at Edgewater Park School (18 students)
- Jerri-Lynn and Anna presented the BE at the LU Student Affairs retreat held on Dec. 7

The NAP Coordinator attended the ***Aboriginal Mentorship Program meeting*** for AMP event on Nov. 11th with Ms. Lisa Harris and Ms. Anna Chief.

The NAP Coordinator attended the ***Lakehead University Report to the Community Luncheon*** at the Victoria Inn & Conference Centre on November 23rd, 2016.

Jerri-Lynn attended the ***Humanities 101 Graduation Ceremony*** on December 8th, 2016.

The NAP Coordinator attended the ***Cultural Competency Training*** held on January 13th, 2017.

The NAP Coordinator met with Ms. Christina Buzzi, Student Success Advisor, to discuss the ***Strong Interest Inventory testing and career exploration***. She will be coming to the NAP University Transitions 1193 class on January 16th, 2017.

Students

The NAP Coordinator continues to have an open door policy for the NAP students. Students do drop by for extra help and support, along with NAP Alumni.

On December 2nd, 2016, the NAP Coordinator held the last instructor's meeting of the term. Instructor's noted that attendance was declining as well as students were not meeting assignment deadlines. Many students were also having many personal issues that were affecting their attendance (most students kept in touch with Jerri or their instructor's via email to let them know if they would be away). Jerri-Lynn has been on top of reaching out to students to find ways to encourage and empower them to finish this term strong. All the professors and instructors have also had been able to have individual chats with some of these students to encourage them also. The NAP team is working great together, and we are all here for our students.

This term, instead of the Community & Culture Workshop, Jerri-Lynn is piloting a new addition to the University Transitions 1192 class. Regular classes are still 3 contact hours, but she has added a Friday session called University Transitions Open Study, which will be lead and taught by Ms. Anthea Kyle. NAP Alumni will also be present during some sessions to mentor and help students as well. Anthea will be tailoring this course to help students with remedial work such as writing, etc. It will be held every Friday, starting January 20 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. This part of the course is for marks and attendance is required. Jerri-Lynn decided to switch up this course from the Community & Culture Workshop as students were not attending regularly and it was difficult to get the Elder to attend on certain dates as she also works full-time.

Jerri-Lynn has monthly student check-ins with NAP students to ensure they are being successful. At these meetings we discuss where they are in each class, if they need extra support, if things are going well personally (food, clothing, shelter, etc.) and anything else they wish to share with me.

NAP hosted its second Family Night, which was held in the Faculty Lounge (which was the NAP/NNEP Family Holiday Feast), this was a joint venture with NNEP. A total of 70 people attended (students and their families). It was a great evening of food, family, Santa, Games and fun!

Administration

The NAP Coordinator attended the **Aboriginal Initiatives Open House** on December 1st, 2016.

The NAP Coordinator worked with Dr. Peggy Smith, Interim Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) to go over and finalized the **Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Post-Secondary Partnership Program** proposal and sent it off the Dr. Nancy

Luckai, Deputy Provost, for review. It has been approved and Jerri-Lynn will be moving forward with implementing research for changes in the Native Access Program.

Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP) (Lisa Harris)

On-Campus AMP Event Days

The AMP Coordinator and our two AMP assistant coordinators welcomed 66 AMP students from all four local **Lakehead Public Boards secondary schools**, as well as 11 teachers, guidance counselors and chaperones on November 10th. As a group we participated in the **Blanket Exercise** with Ms. Jerri-Lynn Orr and Ms. Anna Chief. We enjoyed a pizza lunch in the faculty lounge and listened to presentations from the Departments of Anthropology and Geography and the Environment. Dr. Matt Tocheri discussed the anthropology program and his research (as Canada Research Chair) on *Homo sapien Florensis*. Dr. Will Wilson discussed the Department of Geography and Sacred Geographies.

The school of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism, the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and the Aboriginal Mentorship Program hosted 10 high school students from **Constance Lake First Nation** on November 25th. The students were treated to coffee, tea and egg sandwiches for breakfast followed by two separate presentations to showcase the Department of English and the Department of History. Dr. Judith Leggatt and Dr. Daniel Hannah discussed the Haida graphic novel “Red”, built a wall mural from the book with the students and each student was gifted with a book to take home with them. Dr. Michel Beaulieu brought in two trucks of artifacts from World War I and II. He discussed the wars from a local perspective and talked about the very important role played by Indigenous soldiers in both wars. The presentation was well received by the Constance Lake students, as they are all members of the Canadian Military’s Junior Ranger Program.

AMP hosted 7 students, teachers and chaperones from **Sir Winston Churchill CVI** on December 13th. The students were on campus to gain some hands on experience in our university labs. The students participated in lab activities in chemistry, plant biology, anthropology and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Dr. Craig MacKinnon, Dr. Gabriel Oba, Jarret Silvestre, and Karen Campbell directed the students in a variety of chemistry experiments including, silly putty, creating esters, and the effects of liquid nitrogen. Dr. Lada Malek and Emma Lehmberg did a presentation on plant biology and operating a herbarium. Several microscopes were set out for students to look at a variety of plant life. Ms. Cathy Jones arranged for all students to learn about the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and also had a chance to examine the animatronic dummies in the NOSM diagnostic lab. Students and staff enjoyed lunch in the residence cafeteria.

AMP hosted 38 students, teachers and 6 chaperones from **Westgate CVI, Superior CVI and Hammarskjold High School** on December 14th. The students were on campus to gain some hands on experience in our university labs. The students participated in lab activities in chemistry, plant biology, anthropology and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Dr. Craig MacKinnon, Dr. Gabriel Oba, Jarret Silvestre, and Karen Campbell directed the students in a variety of chemistry experiments including, silly putty, creating esters, and the effects of liquid nitrogen. Dr. Lada Malek and Emma Lehmberg did a presentation on plant biology and operating a herbarium. Several microscopes were set out for students to look at a variety of plant life. Ms. Cathy Jones arranged for all students to learn about the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and also had a chance to examine the animatronic dummies in the NOSM diagnostic lab. Students and staff enjoyed lunch in the residence cafeteria.

AMP hosted 18 students and 2 teachers from **St. Ignatius Catholic High School** on December 15th. The students were on campus to gain some hands on experience in our university labs. The students participated in lab activities in chemistry and plant biology. Dr. Craig MacKinnon, Dr. Gabriel Oba, Jarret Silvestre, and Karen Campbell directed the students in a variety of chemistry experiments including, silly putty, creating esters, and the effects of liquid nitrogen. Dr. Lada Malek and Emma Lehmberg did a presentation on plant biology and operating a herbarium. Several microscopes were set out for students to look at a variety of plant life.

On December 16th AMP hosted 15 students and 2 teachers from **St. Ignatius Catholic High School**. The students were on campus to gain some hands on experience in our university labs. The students participated in lab activities in chemistry and plant biology. Dr. Craig MacKinnon, Dr. Gabriel Oba, Jarret Silvestre, and Karen Campbell directed the students in a variety of chemistry experiments including, silly putty, creating esters, and the effects of liquid nitrogen. Dr. Lada Malek and Emma Lehmberg did a presentation on plant biology and operating a herbarium. Several microscopes were set out for students to look at a variety of plant life.

Off-Campus AMP Events

The AMP Coordinator met with and had lunch with 18 students at **Superior CVI** on November 3rd. I talked about the AMP program and delivered a short presentation on past and present AMP activities, events and opportunities available to the students. We supplied students with our AMP forms to be filled out and answered a variety of questions about the AMP program.

The AMP Coordinator met with and had lunch with 26 students at **Sir Winston Churchill CVI** on November 4th, 2016. I talked about the AMP program and delivered a short presentation on past and present AMP activities, events and opportunities

available to the students. We supplied students with our AMP forms to be filled out and answered a variety of questions about the AMP program.

The AMP Coordinator met with and had lunch with 23 students at **Westgate CVI** on November 7th, 2016. I talked about the AMP program and delivered a short presentation on past and present AMP activities, events and opportunities available to the students. We supplied students with our AMP forms to be filled out and answered a variety of questions about the AMP program.

The AMP assistant coordinator (Esther McKay) and myself travelled to **Lac Seul First Nation** at the invitation of the schools and the community counsel. On December 1st we visited two schools; Obishikokaang Elementary School in Frenchman's Head and Waninitawingaang Memorial School in Kejick Bay. In the morning of December 1st we visited Frenchmans Head and worked directly with 52 students between grades 3 and grade 8. In the afternoon we visited Kejick Bay and worked with a further 45 students between grades 2 and grade 8. We discussed the importance of Indigenous knowledge with the younger students and had them create bone and bead jewelry. We compared conventional science and Indigenous science in a presentation for the senior students. Students did two activities representing both types of science; the process of creating clay pots and making silly putty. The AMP program purchased lunch from Subway for all of the teachers and students in both schools.

The AMP assistant coordinator (Esther McKay) and myself travelled to Lac Seul First Nation at the invitation of the schools and the community counsel. On December 2nd we visited **Morris Thomas Memorial Christian School in Whitefish Bay**. We worked directly with 16 students between grades 1 and grade 8. We discussed the importance of Indigenous knowledge with the younger students and had them create bone and bead jewelry. We compared conventional science and Indigenous science in a presentation for the senior students. Students did two activities representing both types of science; the process of creating clay pots and making silly putty. The AMP program purchased lunch from Subway for all of the teachers and students in the school.

Other

As the AMP program's future home will be located in Lakehead University's new **Centre for Advanced Studies in Engineering and Science (CASES)**, we all attended the media event along with the Hon. Patty Hajdu, the Hon. Don Rusnak, and the Hon. Michael Gravelle in attendance.

During the week of December 5-9th the Coordinator of the AMP program attended the **Indigenous Women in Leadership training workshop at the Banff Centre** for Arts and Creativity in Banff National Park. The workshops focused on the issues, challenges and inequities facing Indigenous women and how to overcome them.

Coordinated Learning Access Network (CLAN) (Robin Sutherland)

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor attended Lakehead University's **Engineering Career Fair** on Nov. 3rd to meet with, and promote CLAN to, 22 various companies in the mining and engineering fields.

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor, along with the two CLAN Ambassadors (Kayla Meekis and Brandon Sofea), attended the **Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission's Economic Trends & Career Paths Workshop** on Nov. 10. It was an excellent opportunity for us to learn about some of the regional labour trends in the future as well as the career opportunities that will be available to students. Altogether, we connected with about 20 different employers from a variety of industries.

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor, along with the two CLAN Ambassadors (Kayla Meekis and Brandon Sofea), attended the **Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce After Business** event on Nov. 16 at the Da Vinci Centre to promote CLAN, network with various businesses, and help employers create a Magnet profile. Two tablets were set up on-site, and 11 employers created a profile to be entered into a draw for a \$50 Shoppers gift card.

The Transitions/CLAN Advisor, along with the ACSS Coordinator, set up a booth at the **NAN Best Practices Forum** on Nov. 30th and 31st to promote CLAN and our ACSS services.

On Nov. 14, Dec. 5, and Jan. 9 the Transitions/CLAN Advisor hosted **CLAN Information & Sign-up Sessions**, to which a total of 6 students attended to get more information about the Coordinated Learning Access Network and create a job-seeker profile on the Magnet database.

Throughout the months of Nov. to Jan. the Transitions/CLAN Advisor posted **updates on social media** outlets Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote CLAN, job opportunities and any events of interest to CLAN members.

Meetings

- Kevin Vuong, Partnership Lead for Magnet, about updates, support, interest level, the Ambassadors' effectiveness, new materials for CLAN, and the possibility of connecting Youth Fusion with one of the local high schools
- Lorne Clifford, Lakehead University's Director of Security Services, on Nov. 2 in the Study to discuss the potential for recruiting more Indigenous students into the Security department, a new position opening up, CLAN, and scheduling an Information/Recruitment Session by the end of November

- Allysha Wassegejig, Aboriginal Mentorship and Learning Access Coordinator (Orillia Campus), regarding program updates and future plans
- Kristen Bohonis, CO-OP and Employment Relations Officer, about networking, the Chamber of Commerce, and Magnet/CLAN; Kristin Tooth, Human Resources Business Partner at the Bank of Montreal, regarding their Aboriginal Mentorship Program's problem with retention and the possibility of joining the Magnet database
- Charmaine McCraw, Labour Force Researcher at the Northern Policy Institute, about working together and coordinating our efforts on Magnet
- Derek Wentzell, Community Economic Development Consultant for the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF), about offering Entrepreneurial Workshops for our students, creating a partnership with CLAN, and getting NADF clients signed up onto Magnet
- Madge Richardson, Executive Director of the North Superior Workforce Planning Board (NSWPB), about coordinating our efforts on Magnet, possibly collaborating on trips to remote communities to promote Magnet, and joining *Employment Plus*.

Thank you to the AI staff for sharing your accomplishments for this period of November 1, 2016-January 15, 2017.

Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Smith, Interim Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives)