# Lakehead University Corporate Identity. 500 University Avenue, Orillia, ON, Canada, L3V 0B9, lakeheadu.ca

Native Access Program – Aboriginal Initiatives

**Proposal Brief—Name Change for the Native Access Program**

The Native Access Program within the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities is seeking to update the name of the Native Access Program (NAP) to accurately reflect the current vernacular being used in post-secondary institutions across Canada. Support was garnered from the Provost, Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Vice-Provost, Aboriginal Initiatives, NAP instructors and current students, before moving forward with this plan. The core elements of the NAP will stay the same; we are only requesting a name change.

Rationale for Program Name Change

We are proposing to change the program name to Lakehead University Indigenous Transition Year Program. This program name change has been under consideration for some time for three primary reasons. First, the word “Native” has not been used to describe Indigenous peoples since the late 1980’s early 1990’s, and was used at the time of the creation of the Native Access Program in 1989-1990. Second, we want to use the word “Indigenous” to reflect the current vernacular being used in post-secondary institutions across Canada and the World, which represents the people “Indigenous to the lands they inhabit” (Alfred & Corntassel, 2005, p. 597). Also following suit, the Canadian Government had moved to change to the term “Indigenous” from “Aboriginal” which is meant to “indicate the intent of changing relationship with Indigenous Peoples in Canada” (https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/indigenous-or-aboriginal-which-is-correct).

Third, we want to be a cohesive unit using the same vernacular, as changes are also expected to come from the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services, to also move away from the term “Aboriginal” to “Indigenous”.

Over the years, when in community and with students, there have been comments made about how outdated the term “Native” is and the acronym “NAP,” with comments made around napping and listlessness. We want to reflect what is important to our community members and honour the changing landscape of Indigenous programs and services for students who attend these programs and use these services that is reflective of their feedback.

Impact on Program Learning Outcomes

There are no substantive changes to the Program Learning Outcomes. The fundamental elements of the original Native Access Program structure will remain in place without further changes.

Budgetary Implications of the Proposed Program Changes

There are minimal budgetary implications for this proposed program name change. Signage, business cards, web changes, new promotional and recruitment items will need to be created to reflect the new name change. The budgetary cost could be from $1000-$3000 and is accounted for in the Aboriginal Initiatives budget.