

OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES — LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SECURITY & DATA MANAGEMENT AT LAKEHEAD

What's live, what's coming, and when to contact me

ANDREW AUSTIN, RSDMS — OFFICE OF RESEARCH SERVICES

THE ROLE IN 30 SECONDS

WHO I AM

01 **Half Research Security, Half RDM**

Two mandates, one specialist — security and data management under one roof.

02 **Embedded in ORS**

I sit in the Office of Research Services and report to the VP Research & Innovation.

03 **Advisory Partner — Not Enforcement**

My role is to help you stay compliant and move fast. Not to slow you down.



RESEARCH SECURITY | RDM

Services



RESEARCH SECURITY

- Background checks – visitors, postdocs, GRI, partners
- STRAC, NSGRP, STRA, NRO advisory
- Sanctions screening
- Grant compliance review – NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, CFI, ORF



DATA MANAGEMENT

- DMP review and support
- Tri-Agency RDM policy guidance
- Data lifecycle and storage advice
- Toolkit support



UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES THAT APPLY TO YOU

JUST LAUNCHED

NEW — NOW LIVE



RDM WEBSITE

Central hub for Research Data Management at Lakehead



RESEARCH SECURITY

Main hub for RS policy, guidance, and resources



TRAVEL SECURITY

Guidance for international travel with research data or IP



CYBER SECURITY

Dedicated sub-page on cyber threats to research

IN FINAL TESTING PHASE — LAUNCHING VERY SOON

TWO NEW TOOLKITS

RDM TOOLKIT

PDF Tools	17	Image Tools	6
Text & Data Tools	8	Privacy & Security	4
More Tools	11+		

RESEARCH RESOURCES

- Tri-Agency RDM Policy
- Research Storage Calculator
- DRAC Services
- Classify Your Data
- Lakehead Dataverse
- Adobe Acrobat Alternative

RESEARCH SECURITY TOOLKIT

Policy Guides	4
Compliance Tools	4
Reference	3
Operational Security	1

INCLUDES

- Live NRO (Named Research Organizations) lookup
- Live STRA (Sensitive Technology Research Areas) lookup
- Plain-language federal & provincial RS/RDM policy explainers

ON THE HORIZON

COMING SOON



VERY SOON

TRAVEL SECURITY LOANER DEVICES

- Clean phones (iPhone 15, Pixel 9) or laptops (MacBook Air M5, Dell 14 Pro Plus) for international travel
- No more wiping your daily driver before a border crossing



SOON

RISK MITIGATION PLAN RESOURCES

- Templates and walkthroughs for ORF and federal grant requirements



SOON

CONTROLLED GOODS & EXPORT CONTROLS

- Guidance on dual-use research, sanctions compliance, and shipping samples/equipment

WHEN TO REACH OUT

FIVE MOMENTS YOU SHOULD CONTACT ME

- 1 Hosting any international visitor
- 2 Partnering with a foreign university, company, or government — **before signing**
- 3 Preparing any grant in a sensitive technology area
- 4 Receiving an unsolicited collaboration, funding, or recruitment offer
- 5 Travelling internationally with research data, samples, or unpublished IP

⚠ **If it has the words** data, sample, **or** international **in it — there's a good chance I can help!**

THE STAKES

WHY THIS MATTERS



STRAC NON-COMPLIANCE

Grant ineligibility — your application can be rejected before review.



SANCTIONS VIOLATIONS

Federal legal exposure — personal liability for the researcher, not just the institution.



LATE-STAGE DISCOVERY

Missed deadlines and real cost to your research program when issues surface at submission.

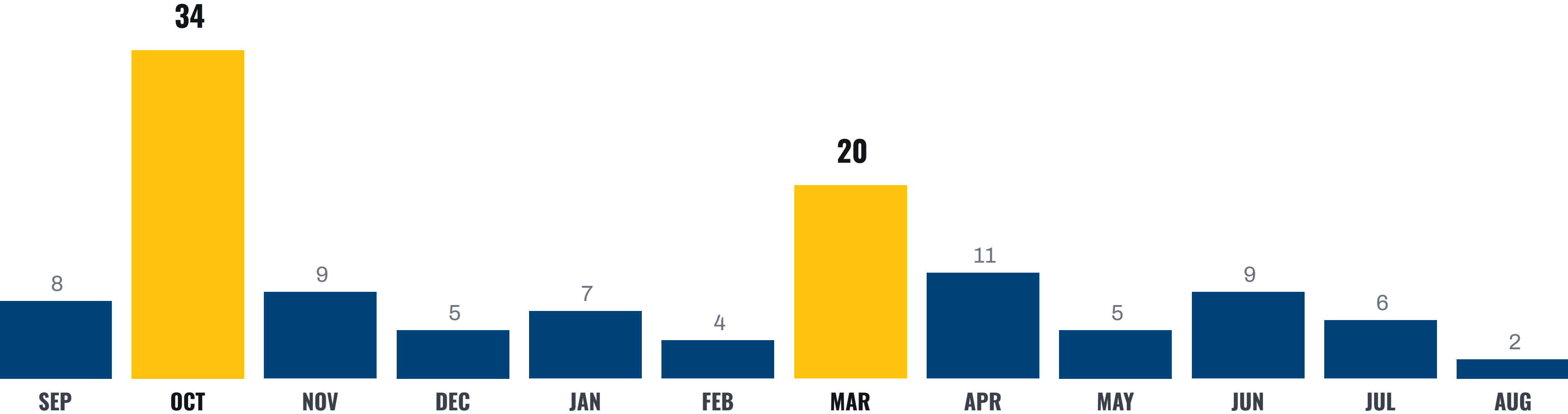


FOREIGN INTERFERENCE CASES

Now public-facing — reputational risk extends to you, your lab, and Lakehead.

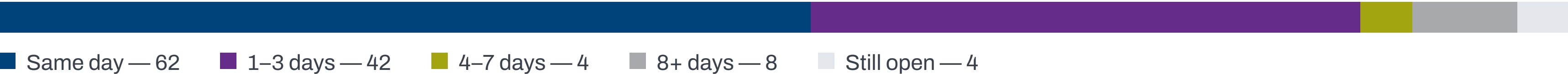
REQUEST VOLUME BY MONTH

The two spikes are grant deadlines — NSERC Discovery in October, ORF and Impact+ in March — and together they carry 45% of the year.



TURNAROUND ON CLOSED FILES

Average 2.6 days from request to verdict



REQUEST WORKLOAD BREAKDOWN

120 requests over one full year, grouped by the kind of work each one required.



10 / mo

Average request volume

87%

Closed within three days

29

Departments and units served

18

Files flagged high-risk

FITAA at a glance

Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act

Quick guide for Lakehead University staff and researchers

PEOPLE
IDEAS
SOLUTIONS
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW



What FITAA is

- A public registry for arrangements with foreign principals involving influence activities tied to Canadian political or governmental processes.
- A transparency law, not a ban on research or international collaboration.
- **In force: August 4, 2026.**



Registration is only likely when all 4 are YES

- 1  Foreign principal?
- 2  Arrangement?
- 3  Influence activity?
- 4  Canadian process?



If any one answer is **NO**, the assessment ends. If unsure, treat it as **YES** and ask Research Security.



Does NOT trigger FITAA by itself



International collaboration



Foreign funding



Research and publication activity



Start with the four-step assessment instead of assuming anything international must register.



What to do at Lakehead

- Screen early before agreeing to advocacy, policy outreach, public campaigns, or government-facing communications.
- Ask before filing if any step is unclear.
- Document your decision.



Questions or a scenario to talk through?

security.research@lakeheadu.ca
807-343-8010 ext. 8190

GET IN TOUCH

HOW TO REACH ME

EMAIL

security.research@lakeheadu.ca rdm.research@lakeheadu.ca

OFFICE & PHONE

FB2004J | x8190

LOCATION

Office of Research Services, Lakehead University

Advisory conversations are confidential. No trigger, no record — just a chat.