



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

OGIMAAWIN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

November 3, 2020

Dear Community Member,

Lakehead University acknowledges the history that many nations hold in the areas around our campuses, and is committed to a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

As part of our Strategic and Academic Plans, Lakehead University is committed to continuing to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and *Universities Canada's* Principles on Indigenous Education, recognizing that education is key to reconciliation and to the creation of a culture of understanding and appreciation throughout the University that will support a more equitable future for Indigenous people.

The purpose of our letter is to invite you or an Indigenous member of your community to consider becoming a member of Lakehead University's Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council (OIEC).

Members of the OIEC will meet together, and with Lakehead's President, to discuss and advise on issues related to Indigenous post-secondary education opportunities. The OIEC pursues its mission and mandate based on the principles of honour, respect, responsibility, humility, and understanding.

We look forward to strengthening our engagement with Indigenous communities and working together to enhance experiences and outcomes for Indigenous students. As we embrace open and constructive dialogue among cultures, and to enhancing shared knowledge, Lakehead University recognizes the wisdom of Elders and Indigenous community partners to help inform decision making, research initiatives, academic programs, cultural spaces on campus, and supports for students.

We hope you will consider our invitation and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further and answer any questions you may have. If you are interested, please email Valerie Stortini, OIEC Chair, at Valerie.Stortini@tbifc.ca.

Vacancies on the OIEC are normally filled in the spring and fall each year, following a review by the OIEC Nominating Committee. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Moira McPherson
President and Vice-Chancellor

Nancy Bouchard
Past Chair, Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council