



Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre

Lakehead University is excited and ready to be a partner in advancing and realizing an ambitious vision for Ontario, playing a key role in Northern Ontario's future economic development through education, training and skills development, and research.

- Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus is located in the heart of Northwestern Ontario, an area rich in natural resources that continues to be an important contributor to provincial prosperity.
- Lakehead is a driver of the Northern economy, developing highly skilled graduates in fields such as health care, business, engineering, and natural resources (including mining and forest management) that attract students to Northern Ontario and support economic growth across the region.
- Graduates from Lakehead's core programs in fields such as forestry, geology and resource management experience a **100% employment rate**, illustrating the quality of programming delivered in Ontario's North.

Through the development of the **Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre**, Lakehead will connect Ontario's natural resources industry with the skilled workforce they require today and in the future, support the continued development of a mobile and highly skilled workforce capable of meeting the needs of the evolving economy in Northern Ontario, and create a hub for Indigenous pathways to education and ongoing skills development.

"Lakehead continues to play a critically important role in Northwestern Ontario, both as an academic institution as well as serving as a catalyst for continued economic growth. Lakehead's support of Indigenous students and their commitment to inclusion and cultural awareness is another demonstration of their leadership."

– **Seth Kursman**
Vice President, Corporate Communications, Sustainability and Government Affairs, Resolute Forest Products

Connecting Northwestern Ontario's Natural Resources Industry with Local Talent

Lakehead will drive collaboration between economic development agencies and Ontario's natural resources industry to develop the skilled labour required today, and in the future.

Industry Connector Gateway

Lakehead's new Industry Connector Gateway will be strategically placed within the proposed Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre and will serve Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Economic Development agencies such as: Ontario First Nations Economic Developers Association, Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business, the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, Ontario Professional Foresters Association, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Through these partnerships, Lakehead will identify sector-specific needs that will result in timely industry-specific programming and training such as Lakehead's new Native Access Program in Engineering and Certificate in Geology.

'Goldcorp is a major employer in Northwestern Ontario and employs more than 1500 people at our operations in Red Lake and Musselwhite, an operation north of Thunder Bay. Lakehead University is ideally placed to serve local industry. The University has a lot to offer based on a range of expertise in health care, law, sustainability, geology, and Indigenous studies. Goldcorp's business is evolving and we need partners in order to leverage new technology and approaches to mining to ensure we remain relevant to Northerners. We support the Lakehead infrastructure project, the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre with the Government of Ontario and believe it can contribute to economic and social growth in the region.'

– **John Mullally**
VP, Government Affairs & Energy Regulation, Goldcorp Inc.

A Mobile, Skilled Workforce

By offering students professional placements in communities such as Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Geraldton, Lakehead helps to create links between employers in rural and remote communities throughout Northwestern Ontario and our successful graduates. As a result, over 27,000 graduates live and work in communities throughout Northwestern Ontario, fuelling the economy of the North.

Through the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre, Lakehead will not only build capacity in the Natural Resources industry in Northwestern Ontario, but will also continue to develop the professionals rural and remote communities require in areas such as health care, education and other industries in local communities.

Providing Access to Life-Long Learning and Skills Development for Ontario's North

A new approach to stackable modular credentials that meets the needs of industry and of rural and remote learners will be developed and delivered through the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre. This new approach to a university education will be sector focused, flexible, and nimble to meet the needs of Northern Ontario's evolving economy.

The Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre will create a hub for Indigenous pathways to education and ongoing skills development.

Immersive Distance Learning Technology Hub

Lakehead's Immersive Distance Learning Technology Hub will facilitate the development of partnerships that will help enable rural, remote and northern communities to develop, attract and retain highly skilled workers and support economic development.

Housed within the Gichi Kendaasiwin, a range of diverse programs will be delivered through the Hub, including a

business leadership certificate and Lakehead's Native Access programming such as the Native Nurses Entry Program.

Lakehead University and Seven Generations Education Institute are partnering on an important initiative that will deliver immersive distance learning and training for students in rural and remote communities across the region.

The unique delivery of these programs will help Indigenous learners to overcome some of the barriers faced in accessing postsecondary education, with the goal of increasing the university participation rate of the Indigenous population in Northern Ontario.

"The proposal and project are in line with Strategic and Academic Plans of both institutions and will bring significant capacity to the community and region."

– **Brent Takenay**
CEO, Seven Generations Education Institute

Financial Impact

- Upon construction, the Gichi Kendaasiwin would contribute an estimated \$37.5M to Ontario's GDP
- Once Operational, an additional estimated \$10.28M will be contributed to Ontario's GDP on an annualized basis
- Over the next five years provide a total contribution to Ontario's GDP of approximately \$75.7M
- The Centre will generate an estimated 300 full-time jobs associated with the major capital build
- Once operational, estimated to offer 83 full-time jobs a year



Ontario has the **largest Indigenous population** in Canada (374,395)*. The second largest population is in British Columbia (207,580).



The medium annual income for Indigenous people in Ontario (aged 25-64) is **\$33,218** compared to **\$42,564** for the non-Indigenous population.



Thunder Bay is the Census Metropolitan Area with the highest proportion of Indigenous People in Canada (12.7% of the population)