



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

61st CONVOCATION

2026
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

Greetings from **LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**



Congratulations to you, the graduating class of 2026!

As you cross the stage today, I invite you to reflect on this incredible moment.

You are not simply walking across the stage to a roar of applause from your friends, family, and supporters; no, this milestone is much more profound. Obtaining your hard-earned degree signifies stepping into the next phase of your bright and brilliant future.

Whether your goal is to begin working in your chosen field or to continue your education by pursuing advanced studies, completing your degree at Lakehead University has bestowed upon you the gifts of choice and possibility.

From this moment forward, the key to unlocking your future is in your hands. I know that your journey from the first day of orientation to graduation was not easy. You have grown as a person, you have expanded your mind, built your skill sets, and you are well-prepared for what comes next.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, and alongside your friends, family, and supporters, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. The entire Lakehead community is proud of all you have accomplished, and we are honoured to be part of your life's story.

Dr. Gillian Siddall
President and Vice-Chancellor
Lakehead University



2026 Graduates You are on Canada's A-List:

Applause to you, your support team of family, friends, and faculty, for your many accomplishments in a difficult, dangerous, and challenging world.

Advocacy is now in your present and future. Advocacy for the values of your Lakehead education, including collaboration, respect, and truth and reconciliation.

Attitude, sometimes used as a negative word, in your case, means having the determination and focus to make the world a more humane place for yourselves, your local and national communities.

Altitude, a high place, will frequently need to be your vantage point. You are equipped to look at the world from there, to know that together we can work for harmony, beauty, hope, and abundance.

A-List graduates, applause and congratulations to you.

Rita Shelton Deverell
Chancellor
Lakehead University

Friday, May 29, 2026 - 10am

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Graduate and Undergraduate Credentials to be Conferred:

Faculty of Engineering

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

Prelude

Joe Petch

Processional - Pomp and Circumstance by E. Elgar

Joe Petch, Ted Vaillant, Erik Hongisto, Damian Rivers-Moore,
Dr. Darlene Chepil-Reid

The audience is asked to stand as the Academic Procession enters

O Canada

Robert Perrier

Honour Song

Elder Beatrice Twance-Hynes

Invocation

Elder Beatrice Twance-Hynes

The Chancellor - "I hereby declare this Convocation open."

Chancellor Rita Shelton Deverell

Introduction of the Platform Party

Dr. Gillian Balfour, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Greetings from Fort William First Nation

Chief Michele Solomon, Fort William First Nation

Greetings from the City of Thunder Bay

The Honorable Ken Boshcoff, Mayor, City of Thunder Bay

President's Address

Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice-Chancellor

Recognition of the Recipients of the Emeritus Title

Dr. Gillian Balfour, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Conferring of the Honorary Degree Candidate

Liz Murray, Member of the Senate Honorary Degree Committee
Chancellor Rita Shelton Deverell
Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice-Chancellor

Convocation Address

William Heibein

Conferring of the Title of Fellow of the University

Cathy Tuckwell, Chair of Lakehead University's Board of Governors
Kevin Clegghorn, 2026 Fellow of the University

Message from the Class of 2026

Namratha Jagadeesh

Musical Interlude

Lauren Differ Saxberg (Fiddle)

Presentation of the Candidates for the Conferring of
Credentials and Medals/Awards

Dr. Erin Peason, Associate Professor

Degrees and Diplomas Granted in Absentia

Andrea Tarsitano, Vice-Provost (Students) & Registrar

Message from the Alumni Association

Paul Popo-Ola, President, Lakehead University Alumni Association

Chancellor's Remarks & Closing

Chancellor Rita Shelton Deverell

"I hereby declare this Convocation closed."

Recessional

Chris Grenke

The audience is asked to kindly wait until the graduates have exited the Auditorium and to then make their way to the Lakehead University campus for refreshments, photos, and conversation.



Follow along as we acknowledge our graduates
and this year's medal recipients.





Lakehead

UNIVERSITY

The Arms of the University were granted by the Earl Marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, on June 20, 1959.

The heraldic description is:

Coat of Arms

"Barry wavy of six Argent and Azure on a Chief Gules in front of a rising Sun issuant from the base of the Chief Or between two Candles enflamed proper each surmounted of an open Book also proper edged and bound Gold a Portcullis chained Sable"

Crest

"On a Wreath Or and Azure on Water Barry wavy Argent and Azure in front of a Rock growing therefrom a Pine Tree a Canoe paddled by an Indian Brave and Canadian Trapper."

Motto

Ad agusta per angusta
Achievement through effort