



LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Lakehead University proudly partners with many existing community resources to leverage expertise and complement our mandate to achieve a higher level of impact. IPED works with its partners and collaborators to accelerate commercialization by connecting the University with various organizations within the region to broaden the entrepreneurial ecosystem for our University Persons.

Through IPED, Lakehead is proud to be an integral part of the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem and has gone so far as to implement formal partnerships through signed Memorandums of Understanding with many community partners within the region.

Formal Partners include:

- The Northern Ontario Innovation Centre (NOIC)
- Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF)
- PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise
- The Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre
- Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC)
- Thunder Bay Ventures
- The Ontario Co-op Council/Conseil de la Cooperation de l'Ontario
- The Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)
- Bioenterprise, Canada's Food and Agri-tech Engine
- Northern Ontario Angels

Other partnerships in Thunder Bay include:

- City of Thunder Bay
- The Ontario Center of Innovation (OCI)
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute (TBRHRI)
- Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs
- Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Local Developers Group

Supporting Simcoe County's innovation and economic development partners helps Lakehead succeed in domestic markets and supports Research and innovation in Ontario.

Our Central Ontario partners include:

- City of Orillia
- County of Simcoe
- Orillia Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Economic Development Network
(77 partners including EDOs, City, Towns, Townships and Business support services)
- Simcoe Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Committee
(82 partners, including funders, Colleges, EDOs, Community Futures, and Support organizations)
- Regional Manufacturing Partner Alliance
(includes LU, Georgian College, County of Simcoe, City of Barrie and City of Orillia)

- Simcoe County Entrepreneurship Network
(includes the County of Simcoe, Georgian HBEC, Community Futures/CDCs, The Sandbox)
- Community Opportunities Development Committee
(includes the City of Orillia, OSMH, Rama First Nation, Manufacturers, Georgian College)
- Barrie Economic Forum
(includes Councillors, Chamber, Manufacturers, Lawyers, Downtown BIA, Georgian, etc.)
- Manufacturing Innovation Summit (held annually at Georgian College)

Lakehead provides a commitment to partner and work with the extensive entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems within both regions in all appropriate commercialization endeavours. Leveraging the expertise and resources within both ecosystems provides better support and opportunities for University Persons to success in their commercialization efforts and provide benefit to Ontario.