



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



**Community Ecology
& Energetics Lab**

MSc Student Opportunity: Determining contributions of hydrological connectivity, environment and biology in determining fish communities

The [Community Ecology and Energetics lab \(CEElab\)](#) at Lakehead University is currently recruiting a domestic (Canadian citizen or permanent resident) MSc student interested in applying statistical models incorporating spatial relationships in order to evaluate contributions of connectivity, environment and biology in dictating fish communities. The anticipated start date for the position is Fall of 2021.

The CEElab is led by Dr. Michael Rennie, a Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries at Lakehead University. He is also a Research Fellow with the world-renowned [IISD-Experimental Lakes Area \(ELA\)](#), an unparalleled outdoor research facility in Northwestern Ontario that has conducted whole-lake research to better inform environmental policy since 1969.

Research will be conducted at the ELA, using historical records of fish relative abundance from surveys conducted over the past 50 years to help better understand the drivers of fish community composition in remote northwestern Ontario lakes. It is expected the student will learn and apply spatially-explicit statistical models combined with extensive datasets on biological and environmental data at the lake and watershed level. Anticipated field work at the ELA will involve ground-truthing connectivity among lake systems and surveying biological communities and environmental conditions where data are lacking.

Lakehead University is located on the shores of Lake Superior, and is the only research-intensive Canadian University in Northwestern Ontario. It is well situated for supporting collaborations with other institutions, approximately 3 hours drive from Duluth and 6 hours from the ELA. Funding for the position is competitive.

Interested students should send a CV, cover letter expressing interest and relevant skills, as well as a copy of recent unofficial transcripts to mrennie@lakeheadu.ca. Review of applications will start March 8th.