

Redefining the Modern University | 5 Priorities for 5 Years

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2014–2019

# OUR LEGISLATED MANDATE (THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY ACT)

## Purposes

- (1) The purposes of the university are
  - (a) to offer baccalaureate and masters degree programs,
  - (b) to offer post-secondary and adult basic education and training,
  - (c) to undertake and maintain research and scholarly activities for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b), and
  - (d) to provide an open learning educational credit bank for students.
- (2) The university must promote teaching excellence and the use of open learning methods.
- (3) In carrying out its purposes, the university must serve
  - (a) the educational and training needs in the region specified by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and
  - (b) the open learning needs of British Columbia.

Full Legislation at— [http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/00\\_05017\\_01#section3](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_05017_01#section3)

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT (2007)

TRU is a comprehensive, learner-centred, environmentally responsible institution that serves its regional, national, and international learners and their communities through high quality and flexible education, training, research and scholarship.

# OUR TRADITIONAL FOUNDATIONS

TRU serves our Aboriginal, local, regional, national and global communities by cultivating:

- Student, faculty, staff, and community engagement and service excellence
- Faculty and student engagement in scholarly research and creative activity
- Innovative, interdisciplinary, and experience-based learning environments
- Open and flexible learning environments
- Aboriginal education, culture, traditions, opportunities and partnership
- Environmental, economic, social, cultural and creative sustainability
- International opportunities for students, faculty and staff

Implementing our Mandate and Mission:

## ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE

Thompson Rivers University is learner-centered and committed to **open access** for students with varied backgrounds, abilities and entry credential levels. TRU provides **open education**, offering on campus, online, distance and flexible learning. We promote access to **open educational resources and learning**, offering flexible credentials and residency models when possible. TRU is **open to the needs of our communities**, providing useful program and learning models for our Aboriginal, local, regional, national and global communities.

Thompson Rivers University supports **teaching excellence** through our Centre for Student Engagement and Learning Innovation. Our goal is to build **excellent learning environments** and **service excellence** on our campuses and online, providing academic and social support for a rich diversity of learners, including students from underrepresented communities.

Thompson Rivers University is committed to **open access to knowledge creation** including providing our learners access to a research informed education and providing our communities access to the benefits of scholarly, research and creative activities to solve community problems and enrich community life. Thompson Rivers University supports **research excellence** through our Office of Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies.

At Thompson Rivers University, our commitment to dynamically and continuously improving standards of excellence is unwavering.

# 5 PRIORITIES FOR 5 YEARS

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## Increasing

# STUDENT SUCCESS

TRU will prioritize academic engagement and programs which fully develop our learners' knowledge and skills and support student career success in the context of:

- Co-curricular, extracurricular and experiential learning opportunities
- Flexible delivery models for innovative programs
- Flexible learning options, such as laddering, prior learning assessment, open learning, and life-long learning options
- Student transitions to work or further study through skills-based, competency-based, and learning outcomes-based education and training
- Transitions between high schools and the university; trades, vocational and academic streams; virtual, distance and face-to-face learning environments

## Increasing

# INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

TRU will prioritize programs and practices that support diversity, inclusion and intercultural understanding between our Aboriginal, local, regional and global communities in the context of:

- The indigenization of our university through the inclusion of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal teaching, learning, knowledge, research and creative practice
- The internationalization of our university through the inclusion of globally-engaged teaching, learning, knowledge, research and creative practice
- The recognition of the diversity and uniqueness of Canadian society including a local and BC perspective.
- The creation of a culture of inclusion in all aspects of university work and life

## Increasing

# RESEARCH CAPACITY

TRU will prioritize the development and mobilization of scholarship, research, training, teaching innovation, professional practice, and creative capacity for the benefit of people in the context of:

- The strengths and expertise of faculty and students
- The needs of people, populations and organizations in our communities
- Program and course innovation and development for undergraduate and graduate students
- Partnerships across disciplines with industry, businesses, social and cultural organizations, and other educational institutions
- Intercultural and international career and professional development, research activity, and creative activity for students, faculty, staff and alumni

## Increasing

# ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY

TRU will prioritize entrepreneurial collaboration and social enterprise that mutually benefits the university and the communities we serve in the context of:

- Innovative practices, experiences, and ideas
- Research and creative opportunities for students and faculty
- Career development opportunities for students, faculty, staff and alumni
- Partnerships with Government, NGOs, industry, business, professional and academic institutions and communities
- Innovation leading to economic development

Increasing

# SUSTAINABILITY

TRU will prioritize initiatives that mutually benefit the university and the communities we serve in the context of:

- Financial sustainability of the university
- Economic sustainability of the region and the province
- Cultural and social sustainability of our communities
- Creative and community arts sustainability
- Environmental sustainability

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## IMPLEMENTATION

### Implementing the 5 Priorities over 5 Years

The Strategic Priorities planning and implementation process depends on the most important resource available to the university, namely the energy and creativity of our people. Therefore, our community: students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members will be invited to submit proposals which champion and implement these pan-university priorities over the next five years. It is understood that strategic proposals may require strategic investments. Thus, future budgeting processes will provide for strategic investments in initiatives that align with these priorities. Key strategic indicators and milestones will be developed to monitor the progress of all initiatives.

TRU is uniquely positioned to redefine the modern university. Successfully implementing these strategic priorities will take “The TRU Model” to the next level of excellence in creating knowledge and understanding for the benefit of all people.