



**To all members of TRU's research community,**

First, I hope you are keeping well. The Office of Research and Graduate Studies is well aware of the extreme demands on time, energy (both physical and emotional), ingenuity, and intellect as attention for many is quite properly focused on competing demands, including and especially helping our students complete their semester. We also recognize the vital contribution that research makes to enriching instruction and to the communities we serve. Over the last two weeks, and working in collaboration with BC's Ministry of Health, the Interior Universities Research Coalition and the Research Universities Council of British Columbia (RUCBC), it has been our privilege to work with TRU's researchers on marshalling a shared and collaborative response to the current health crisis both now and in the coming months. To date, two COVID-19 projects have been funded — with others under development or underway without current funding.

Perhaps now more than ever, universities play an important role in the lives of our students and our communities through education, research and public engagement. We continue to receive requests for our facilities, resources and expertise, and we will continue to challenge ourselves to find new, creative ways to respond.

We are also working closely with Tri-Agency and our Ethics Review Board to ensure continuity planning for faculty and students engaged in self-directed and supervised research. Research activities continue, including graduate student defenses – but with some modification of delivery method to enhance social distancing. Principal Investigators should be working to develop research plans that adhere to changes in access to campus, the need to maintain social distancing, and other protocols for slowing the spread of Covid-19. These changes may include disruption to research activities both on campus and in the field.

Guidelines and planning advice is in place to facilitate modifications to research protocols, and all internal grant deadlines have been extended by six months to accommodate current circumstances. While new travel grants have been suspended to both faculty and students until the risk of conference cancellation is over, we are allowing faculty and students to use existing grants toward covering any non-refundable expenses. Please know that our office (now a virtual office) stands ready to work with you in sorting out issues as they arise, and we appreciate the advice, recommendations, and personal notes of support you have provided to date. Your collegiality is most appreciated at this difficult time.

Wishing you health and kindness,

**Will Garrett-Petts, AVP**  
**Research & Graduate Studies**

## COVID-19 research impacts

The Research Office is committed to providing up-to-date information designed to facilitate the continuation of faculty and student research during this global pandemic. [This website](#) will be updated regularly, and includes links to Tri-Agency pandemic response, information about research continuity planning, guidelines for research teams, travel awards, funding opportunities, and more. We advise you bookmark this page and check back regularly, as this situation is rapidly changing.

### Impact on student research

Our goal is to allow flexibility for students to continue their research projects. Please note that UREAP and USRA recipients should reevaluate their research projects in light of the COVID-19 pandemic response and work with their supervisors to develop a project-specific plan. Information on [this site](#) will help guide this process for undergraduates.

### Specific program changes

- Deadline for the [Sherman Jen Graduate Awards](#) extended to June 1
- Canada Graduate Scholarship-Masters, results delayed until April 15
- Graduate Research Mentors, results delayed until mid-April

## Remote thesis defences

In response to the suspension of face-to-face instruction, and to maintain current requirements for physical distancing, thesis defences must now be conducted in a fully remote format, and we have created a [new site](#) that outlines this process. For the time being, defences are closed, but we look forward to providing additional access.

## Research initiatives



### Vote Now: Worth 1000 Words | Research in Pictures

While the in-person exhibition was postponed until campus reopens, the online exhibition launched on March 27, and you are now encouraged to vote for [People's Choice](#). Voting closes on April 8, and the winner of People's Choice will receive a \$500 prize.

## Tap into Research continues in a new format

Tap into Research functions as a series of pop-up lectures designed to bring research into the community. These talks have been extremely successful, and plans are in place to continue, albeit virtually. Respecting new physical distancing measures, we are working with several researchers to offer 15-minute Tap Talks that will be premiered on YouTube.

Gift of Learning  
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- **Dr. Laura Doan presents, [How can early childhood educators support each other in a crisis?](#) April 8, 7 pm.** Dr. Doan shares the initial results from her province-wide peer-mentoring project for early childhood educators in BC. Acknowledging the current pandemic, Doan shares ideas for the ECE community to find support in one another during this challenging time.
- **Tap into Research with us** | We are actively searching for researchers to embark on this new Tap Talk format. Please contact [Danna Bach](#) to participate in this exciting knowledge mobilization activity.
- **Special thanks to Dr. Karl Larsen** and his students who presented on rattlesnakes to a packed house at the Noble Pig Brewhouse on March 11.

## Research Week

We want to sincerely thank staff, faculty and students who worked so hard planning the various events that were scheduled to take place during Research Week. While some of these events were cancelled and will take place next year, other events have been postponed, while still others will continue in new formats.

- **Three Minute Thesis, postponed**, new date TBD
- **180(s) Faculty Research Challenge**, cancelled
- **In a Nutshell: Undergraduate Research Challenge**, cancelled
- **IT Showcase for Researchers**, cancelled
- **TRU Xchange Lab grand opening**, postponed, new date TBD
- **Tap into Research with Dr. Terry Kading**, postponed
- **Tri-Agency funding opportunities at a glance**, postponed (will take place virtually)
- **SSHRC's suite of partnership grants, postponed** (will take place virtually)
- **Undergraduate Research & Innovation Conference**, cancelled

## Research News

### Minister of Health discusses regional health research opportunities

TRU was pleased to host Dr. Nicolette McGuire from the Ministry of Health on March 16. Nearly 30 TRU researchers attended and were joined, via video conference, by colleagues from UNBC and UBC-O. A virtual follow-up meeting is being planned to explore Provincial research needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information about this meeting will be forthcoming.

### Eighteen projects awarded research funding

Congratulations to the 18 researchers awarded Internal Research Grants, valued at up to \$5,000 each. The grant program is designed to assist faculty to become more competitive for external funding and to scaffold faculty development, especially in terms of tenure and promotion.

[Read more](#)

### Accelerate Grants awarded

Congratulations also to those awarded Research Accelerate Grants. These grants, valued at up to \$3,000 are intended to assist faculty who are actively engaged in developing applications for Tri-Agency funding in the 2020 fiscal year. Accelerate recipients are:

- Kellee Caton, Tourism
- Judy Duchscher, Nursing
- David Hill, Geography
- Heather Price, Psychology
- Musfiq Rahman, Computer Science

## Tri-Agency news

For the most up-to-date- news on Tri-Agency response to COVID-19, please visit the following:

- [COVID-19 Impacts on SSHRC's Policies and Programs](#)
- [NSERC program information in relation to COVID-19](#)
- [CIHR: Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)

At this time all research granting agencies are adjusting grant and award application dates, adjudication periods, reporting timelines, and spending policies. For specifics, please contact [Megan Prins](#).

## Funding opportunities (external)

For information about upcoming external funding opportunities, please consider bookmarking the [Funding Calendar](#).

- To receive critical institutional approval and grant development support, please contact [Anita Sharma](#) or [Megan Prins](#) at least **two weeks prior** to the listed deadline. Deadlines noted below are external deadlines.

### CIHR

#### [Catalyst Grant: Health Effects of Vaping](#)

**New deadlines: Registration, April 22; full application, June 17**

**Award amount: \$100,000/1 year**

This funding opportunity will support projects relevant to the following research areas: Youth vaping of nicotine, cannabinoid extracts, THC, and other compounds; Short and/or long-term health effects of vaping (including lung injury in youth and/or adults); behaviours and associated health and social

impacts of vaping product use (youth and/or adults); mental health, addiction and dependence in the context of vaping (youth and/or adults); vaping policy issues related to youth and/or adults; vaping and oral health (youth and/or adults); other areas related to the health consequences of vaping in youth and/or adults.

### [Operating Grant: New Investigator Grants in Child and Youth Health](#)

**Deadline: April 20**

**Award amount: \$100,000 per yr/3yrs**

The SickKids Foundation-CIHR-IHDCYH New Investigator Research Grants in Child and Youth Health program seeks to strengthen Canada's capacity and knowledge to respond to children's health challenges and needs. New investigators may obtain up to three years' support for research in biomedical, clinical, health systems and services, population and public health sectors that has the potential for significant impact on children's health outcomes.

### [Team Grant: Food Security and Climate Change in the Canadian North](#)

**Deadline: LOI: Aug. 5; Successful LOIs will be awarded \$25,000 to develop a full application, due May 2021**

**Award amount: Up to 1.5 million over 4 years.**

The goal of this initiative is to support multidisciplinary teams of researchers, knowledge users and/or partners to work together to address food security and climate change in the North.

## SSHRC

### [Connection Grants](#)

**Deadlines: May 1, Aug. 1, Nov. 1, Feb. 1**

**Award amount: \$7,000 to \$25,000 (events); up to \$50,000 (outreach activities)**

Connection grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. Events and outreach activities funded by a Connection Grant may often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects potentially eligible for funding through other SSHRC funding opportunities listed in SSHRC's Funding search tool.

### [Partnership Engage Grants](#)

**Deadlines: June 15, Sept. 15, Dec. 15**

**Award amount: \$7,000 to \$25,000**

These grants provide short-term and timely support for partnered research

activities that will inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector. The partnerships supported through these grants respond to immediate needs and time constraints facing organizations in non-academic sectors.

## NSERC

### [Special Alliance COVID-19 grants](#)

**Deadline: Before June 1**

**Award amount \$50,000/1 year**

NSERC is providing up to \$15 million in total support to stimulate collaborations between academic researchers and the public and not-for-profit sectors, and industry to address pandemic-related research and technical challenges.

NSERC will process these applications in an accelerated fashion. Partners do not need to provide cash contributions to participate, but must be engaged throughout the research process, from input in design to using the expertise and/or the research results.

### [Alliance Grants](#)

**Deadlines: ongoing**

NSERC is pleased to announce the opening of the next phases of [Alliance grants](#). Alliance grants are now open for [Option 1](#) applications requesting over \$20,000 annually from NSERC, and [Option 2](#) applications requesting support for up to 90% or 100% of the costs of the project are now open.

Alliance grants encourage university researchers to collaborate with partner organizations, which can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors.

Please also see [slide deck](#) from NSERC Research and Innovation

Development Officer, Pam Giberson's presentation at TRU. And an Alliance Grant application "[Top Tips](#)" document.

## Government of Canada

### [Transport Canada – Rail Safety Improvement Program-Infrastructure, Technology and Research \(RSIP-ITR\) Funding](#)

**Deadline: Aug. 1**

**Award amount: \$500,000 [Applicants Guide](#)**

The ITR component of the Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) funds rail safety improvements that support measures to improve public safety at rail property and rail lines (both federally and provincially regulated). Funding is also available for research as well as testing and development of technologies

that can enhance the safety of rail lines.

### [Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

**Award amount: \$100,000/ 1 year**

In 2015, Canada and all other United Nations Member States, committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to eliminate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity by the year 2030. The SDG program supports projects aimed at building awareness of the 2030 Agenda, increase partnerships and networks, advance research, and further Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### [Canada Council for the Arts – Explore and Create – Research Creation](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

**Award amount: \$25,000**

These grants support the initial stages of the creative process. Canadian artists, artistic groups and arts organizations can apply to develop and make creative works. Grants provide support for creative research, creation and project development.

### [Government of British Columbia](#)

#### [Genome BC: Genomic Applications Partnership Program \(GAPP\)](#)

The Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP) funds downstream research and development projects that address real world opportunities and challenges identified by industry, government, not-for-profits and other “Receptors” of genomics knowledge and technologies. GAPP projects are collaborations between academic researchers and Receptor organizations (*please contact [Lincoln Smith](#) prior to proposal preparation*)

### [Foundations](#)

#### [Spencer Foundation: Research Grants on Education - Large](#)

**Deadlines: Intent to Apply, June 18; full proposal, July 14**

**Award amount: \$125,000 to \$500,000**

The Large Research Grants on Education Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived. This program is “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline,



design, method, or location. The program's goal is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.

### [Spencer Foundation: Research Grants on Education – Small](#)

**Deadlines: July 1 (second cycle)**

**Award amount: Up to \$50,000**

The Small Research Grants Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived. They accept applications three times per year. Like the “Large” program, proposal submissions do not have a specific topic.

### [Max Bell Foundation: Project Grants and Development Grants](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

**Award amount: \$10,000-\$200,000/ 1-3 years**

**Project Grants** support clearly defined activities designed to achieve a specific objective that aligns with the Foundation's mission and criteria and that seek to support projects with a high likelihood of informing public policy and practice. Current program areas include: Health & Wellness; Education; the Environment.

**Development Grants** support organizations who wish to undertake short-term (typically 4 month) work that will better position them to succeed with larger projects (e.g., environmental scanning; background research; project planning; proposal development etc.). Development grants are described in more detail [here](#).

### [Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research: Convening & Collaborating \(C2\), and Reach](#)

**NEW Deadline: Sept. 28**

**Award amount: Up to \$15,000**

C2 awards bring together researchers and research users to co-develop research aligned with BC's health system priorities. Reach awards bring together researchers and research users to support the dissemination of research evidence, within the context of related knowledge, and increase its potential impact. Together, teams co-develop events, activities, and/or tools, so they can share research findings and evidence with audiences who can directly use the knowledge.

## **Industry & Not-for Profits**

### [The Digital Technology Supercluster – Call for COVID-19 Solutions](#)

Through the COVID-19 Program, the Digital Technology Supercluster, will invest in projects that support the development, deployment, scale-up and adoption of products, services or technologies that help governments, communities, employers and individual Canadians address exceptional needs created by, and effects of, COVID-19. Five areas of concentration include: Health system; Community health; Safe Living; Diagnostics and Therapeutics; Emergency Response. The Program will focus on projects that will deliver immediate impacts (< 6 months) and time horizons up to 18 months. These opportunities are expected to be a combination of impactful technology development and deployment initiatives.

### [Genome BC: COVID-19 Regional Genomics Initiative](#)

**Start date no later than July 1**

**Award amount: \$250,000**

In response to the urgent need for further research on COVID-19 during the current crisis, Genome Canada is issuing a funding opportunity to support regional genomics projects designed to address specific, short-term needs of industry, not-for-profit, and public sector receptors through research conducted by academics in collaboration with these receptors. These projects will be identified by regional Genome Centres and may involve co-funding by provincial or industry partners (or other sources), although this isn't required. Projects are expected to be outcome-driven, small-scale or larger and focused on delivering a genomics-based solution to help address the current crisis in the near term.

## Corporate Research

### [George Weston: Seeding Food Innovation Grants, 2020](#)

**Deadlines: LOI – April 8; full proposal – Sept. 4**

**Award amount: Up to \$250,000/2 years**

Provides seed funding for innovative transdisciplinary research whose goal is to safely increase the production of nutritious food and other agricultural products that will feed the growing population in ways that are environmentally, economically as well as culturally sustainable.

## Knowledge mobilization

### Be part of The Conversation

TRU is a member of [The Conversation Canada](#), an independent news

organization dedicated to bringing scholarly work to general readership. During the month of March, articles by TRU authors were read more than 21,000 times. If you are interested in writing for The Conversation, contact [Danna Bach](#).

Recently in The Conversation:

- [Understanding work-related suicide after the Molson Coors shooting](#), Angus J. Duff, March 12
- [Next-generation solar panels boost efficiency but may carry toxic risks](#), Michael D. Mehta, March 25

## Join the Experts List

Update your official Bio Page and join your colleagues on TRU's searchable [Experts List](#). The list is a great resource, and can be used to mobilize your knowledge, build partnerships and attract graduate students. Complete [this simple sign-up form](#) to be added to the directory.

## Published books, chapters & articles

\***Bamford, L. E.**, \***Klassen, N. R.**, & **Karl, J. M.** (2020). Faster recognition of graspable targets defined by orientation in a visual search task. *Experimental Brain Research*, doi:10.1007/s00221-020-05769-z

Doucet, Andrea & **McKay, Lindsey**. (2020). Fathering, parental leave, impacts, and gender equality: What/how are we measuring? doi:10.1108/IJSSP-04-2019-0086

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**Kteily-Hawa, R.**, Hari, S., Soor, J. K., Wong, J. P., Chikermane, V., Chambers,

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<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/ece3.6126>

Sharma, M., **Elmiligi, H.**, & Gebali, F. (2020). Network security and privacy evaluation scheme for cyber physical systems (CPS). In K. R. Choo, & A. Dehghantanha (Eds.), *Handbook of big data privacy* (pp. 191-217). Cham: Springer International Publishing. doi:10.1007/978-3-030-38557-6\_9 Retrieved from [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-38557-6\\_9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-38557-6_9)

**\*Indicates student**