

COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Community Research Initiative

TRU's Community Research Initiative responds to the key academic and research goals of the university:

1. The [Academic Plan](#) ensures our students have access to a research-informed education and our communities have access to the benefits of scholarly, research and creative activities to solve community problems and enrich community life.
2. TRU's [Strategic Research Plan](#) (SRP) outlines as a major objective: to "reinforce and facilitate TRU's role and leadership in the linking of research to community social, cultural, scientific, educational, technological and economic development."

Given TRU's strong tradition of community-based research, the SRP underscores the need to "facilitate the development of partnerships with communities, scholars, non-profits, cultural organizations, industries, institutions, government ministries and agencies for pursuing mutual objectives." Through partnerships with the United Way, the City of Kamloops and other non-profit organizations, TRU has set the stage for the continuation of meaningful community-driven research initiatives.

The Community Research Initiative's principle aims include:

- Support for opportunities that encourage community-university collaborations through knowledge mobilization such as conferences, speaker series
- Development of research memorandums of understanding
- Creation of student research opportunities
- Promoting shared funding opportunities

The Opportunity - Community Driven Research Fund (CDRF)

As part of the Thompson Rivers University Community Research Initiative, the Community-Driven Research Fund (CDRF) is designed to support research between non-for-profit community organizations within the Thompson Nicola Cariboo region of the United Way and TRU. These projects are expected to be community-driven, with the research outcomes primarily benefiting the community organization. The Research must:

- Respond directly to community needs
- Build research partnerships with community organizations in the Thompson Nicola Cariboo region
- Provide opportunities for students to become involved in community-based research
- Help faculty and their community partners become more competitive for external funding

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Value and Duration

- The \$25,000 annual fund has been established to provide a minimum of 10 awards per year for three years (November 2016 – October 2019)
- Maximum grants up to \$2,500 per research project. Matching contribution of up to \$2,500 in cash or in-kind is required from the community organization
- Funds must be expended within 1 year of approval and expenditures must conform to the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide

Eligibility

Full-time TRU faculty are eligible to apply. Eligibility includes all faculty members with ongoing or tenure-track appointments, and term-certain faculty holding appointments of more than one year and not in the final year of those appointments. Those holding sessional or one-year term-certain appointments may contribute to and receive funding from an approved project, but they are not eligible to apply directly for funding from the Community-Driven Research Fund. The grant may be held as a complement to a student UREAP Award.

Application Process

Applications must be co-developed with the community organization, TRU faculty member, and TRU's Knowledge Mobilization Officer. It must contain the following information:

- The name of the community organization and contact information
- Information on the organization's mandate and mission
- A description of the research project, including: (maximum 500 words)
 - a. the significance to the community organization and impacts of the project
 - b. description of the role of student(s) and summary of student(s) job description
 - c. explanation of the research methods and how they align with project needs and student(s) abilities
 - d. a clearly-defined Knowledge Mobilization plan, including a plan to archive research results in TRUspace. (see <http://libguides.tru.ca/truspace>)
 - e. description of the research plan's potential to lead to a larger research opportunity which qualifies for external funding
- The proposed timeline of the project, including anticipated start and end dates
- An itemized budget including cash and in-kind contributions and justification of all proposed expenditures
- Applications will be accepted for three years on a continuous basis starting Nov 1, 2016