

# Access to Excellence: 5 Priorities for 5 Years

## Thompson Rivers University Strategic Priorities 2014-2019

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### **Our Legislated Mandate**

The purposes of our university are: to offer baccalaureate and masters degree programs; to offer post-secondary and adult basic education and training; to undertake and maintain research and scholarly activities for the purposes of the above; and to provide an open learning educational credit bank for students. Additionally, the university must promote teaching excellence and the use of open learning methods. In carrying out its purposes, the university must serve the educational and training needs in the regions it serves and the open learning needs of British Columbia.

### **Our Mission Statement**

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

### **Our Traditional Foundations**

TRU serves our Aboriginal, local, 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

## **Access to Excellence: Implementing our Mandate and Mission**

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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 online, distance and flexible learning. We promote access to **open educational resources and learning**, offering flexible credentials and residency models whenever possible. TRU is **open to the needs of our communities**, providing useful program and learning models for our Aboriginal, 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 dynamic and continuously improving standards of excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship, and creative and social activities is unwavering.

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## Building Student Success

TRU will prioritize academic engagement and programs that fully develops 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 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

## Building Intercultural Understanding

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

- The indigenization of our campuses and regional centres through the inclusion of traditional Aboriginal teaching, learning, knowledge, research and creative practice
- The internationalization of our campuses, and regional centres, through the inclusion of globally-engaged teaching, learning, knowledge, research and creative practice
- The recognition of the uniqueness of Canadian society including a local and BC perspective through the inclusion of Canada-based teaching, learning, knowledge, research and creative practice

## Building Research Capacity

TRU will prioritize the development of scholarly research and training; teaching innovation; and creative capacity in the context of:

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

## Building 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 and staff
- Industry, business, professional and academic partnerships
- Innovation leading to economic development

## Building Sustainability

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

- Financial sustainability
- Economic sustainability
- Cultural and social sustainability
- Creative and community arts sustainability
- Environmental sustainability

## Implementing the 5 Priorities over 5 Years

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The Strategic Priorities planning and implementation process depends on our people, the most important resource available to the university. Our community: students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members will be asked to champion and implement these pan-university priorities over the next five years. Future budgeting processes will provide for strategic investments in initiatives that align with these pan-university priorities. Key Strategic Indicators will be developed for these initiatives.

TRU has, over the past 40 years, become a unique and truly 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.