



# The Economic Value of Thompson Rivers University to the Regional Economy

## FACT SHEET

**T**HOMPSON Rivers University (TRU) creates a significant positive impact on the business community and generates a return on investment to its major stakeholder groups—students, taxpayers, and society. Using a two-pronged approach that involves an economic impact analysis and an investment analysis, this study calculates the benefits received by each of these groups. Results of the analysis reflect fiscal year (FY) 2018-19.



### Economic impact analysis

In FY 2018-19, TRU added **\$705.3 million** in income to the TRU Region\* economy, a value approximately equal to **8.4%** of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). Expressed in terms of jobs, TRU's impact supported **9,670 jobs**. For perspective, the activities of TRU and its students support **one out of every nine jobs** in the TRU Region.

#### OPERATIONS SPENDING IMPACT

- TRU employed 1,263 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees in FY 2018-19. Payroll amounted to \$129.1 million, much of which was spent in the region for groceries, mortgage and rent payments, dining out, and other household expenses. The university spent another \$72.8 million on day-to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.
- The net impact of the university's operations spending added **\$169.7 million** in income to the regional economy.

#### STUDENT SPENDING IMPACT

- Around 75% of students attending TRU originated from either outside the region or outside Canada in FY 2018-19, and some of these students relocated to the TRU Region to attend TRU. In addition, a number of local students would have left the region if not for TRU.
- These students spent money on groceries, mortgage and rent payments, and so on at regional businesses. This spending in FY 2018-19 added **\$45.9 million** in income to the TRU Region's economy. Of this impact, **\$22.4 million** is attributable to international students who relocated to the TRU Region to attend TRU.

\* This is the college region designated for TRU by the Government of British Columbia. It consists of a group of census subdivisions in south central British Columbia.

#### IMPACTS CREATED BY TRU IN FY 2018-19



**\$169.7 million**  
Operations Spending Impact



**\$45.9 million**  
Student Spending Impact



**\$489.7 million**  
Alumni Impact



**\$705.3 million**  
TOTAL IMPACT

- OR -

**9,670**  
JOBS SUPPORTED



## ALUMNI IMPACT

- Over the years, students have studied at TRU and entered or re-entered the workforce with newly-acquired knowledge and skills. Today, thousands of these former students are employed in the TRU Region.
- The net impact of TRU's former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to **\$489.7 million** in added income in FY 2018-19. Of this impact, **\$64.7 million** is attributable to former international students who are active in the regional workforce.



## Investment analysis

### STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

- TRU's FY 2018-19 students paid a present value of **\$128.9 million** to cover the cost of tuition, fees, and supplies. They also forwent **\$191.9 million** in money that they would have earned had they been working instead of attending university.
- In return for their investment, students will receive **\$487 million** in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of **\$1.50** in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students' average annual rate of return is **10.6%**.

### TAXPAYER PERSPECTIVE

- Provincial taxpayers provided TRU with **\$82.1 million** of funding in FY 2018-19. In return, they will benefit from added tax revenue, stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased business output, amounting to **\$243.3 million**. A reduced demand for government-funded services in British Columbia will add another **\$7.9 million** in benefits to taxpayers.
- For every dollar of public money invested in TRU, taxpayers will receive **\$3.10** in return, over the course of students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is **21.2%**.

### SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

- In FY 2018-19, society in British Columbia invested **\$413.9 million** to support TRU, including all student and all university costs. In turn, the British Columbia economy will grow by **\$1.5 billion**, over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from **\$20.4 million** in present value social savings related to reduced crime, reduced demand for income assistance, and increased health and well-being across the province.
- For every dollar invested in TRU in FY 2018-19, people in British Columbia will receive **\$4.30** in return, for as long as TRU's FY 2018-19 students remain active in the provincial workforce.



**FOR EVERY \$1...**



**Students** gain  
**\$1.50**  
in lifetime earnings



**Taxpayers** gain  
**\$3.10**  
in added tax revenue and  
public sector savings



**Society** gains  
**\$4.30**  
in added income and  
social savings

