

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

How TRU is Responding to TRC 94 Calls to Action

June 2022



TRU INDIGENOUS EDUCATION



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TRU's Kamloops campus is situated on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc within Secwépemc'ulucw, the traditional territory of the Secwépemc people.

TRU's Vision Statement

Kw'seltknéws, which means we are all related and interconnected with nature, each other and all things.

Our Values:

- Inclusion and Diversity
- Community-Mindedness
- Curiosity
- Sustainability

Our 10-Year Strategic Change Goals:

- Eliminate achievement gaps
- **Honour truth, reconciliation and rights**
- Lead in community research and scholarship
- Design lifelong learning



Indigenous Nations in TRU Service Area
 Secwepemc (Shuswap) 17 bands
 Stat'imc (Lillooet) 11 bands
 Nlaka'pamux (Thompson-Nicola) 16 bands
 Tsilhqot'in (Chilcotin) 8 bands
 Dakelh (Carrier) 20 bands
 Sylix (Okanagan) 8 bands
 Nuxalk (Bella Coola)

TRU Indigenous Statistics
 Kamloops 12%
 WL Campus 30%
 Open Learning 6%

First Nations
 Metis
 Inuit

Source: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/geographic-data-services/land-use/administrative-boundaries/college-regions>

HIGHLIGHTS

- Relationship building with Indigenous communities
- Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Partnership Agreement & Te'xelc (WLFN)
- MOU's & LOU's with Indigenous communities (Skeetchestn, Tsilqotin, Metis, Chief Atahm, NVIT)
- Fulbright & TRU MOU supporting an Indigenous Researcher at TRU
- Training in Indigenous communities (Trades, HCA, MBA)
- Specific training is being requested by communities
- Secwepemc Scholars Database (196+ PhD & Masters)
- Secwepemc Nation Research Ethic Guidelines
- TRU Indigenous Working Group (Indigenous identity)
- Endowment for the recruitment, retention, and support of Indigenous employees (\$1 million)
- Endowment for Secwepemc student awards (16 awards at \$2500)
- New Indigenous building at TRU
- Secwepemc Cultural Advisor for the university implemented
- Indigenous specific faculty recruitment

Child Welfare

(1.iii) Ensuring social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about history and impacts of residential schools.

Indigenous community self-determination:

- Indigenous jurisdiction of Indigenous children in care (e.g. Splatsin & Simpcw FN)
- Tracking EVERY child in foster care in BC, Canada, USA and bringing them back home (connection to family & territory)

TRU Response:

- Increase Indigenous faculty
- Learning on the Land courses with Indigenous communities
- Offer specific training that meets community needs (mental health, trauma) in response to Residential Schools

EDUCATION

(7) Joint Strategy to eliminate employment gaps

- Federal ISETS agreements-ATEC
- TRU Careers- Indigenous Co-ops/Internships Coordinator
- Relationships with Indigenous & non-Indigenous employers & communities
- Transition rural students to post-secondary (Indigenous Mentor Program, Elder in the House, on-off campus supports)

(10) We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples...

- (i) Provide sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation.**
- (ii) Improving education attainment levels and success rates.**
- (iii) Developing culturally appropriate curricula.**

TRU Response

- Ministry of Advanced Education ASP funding- renewed commitment by AEST
- Coyote Project specifically designed to address TRU's response to closing achievement gaps, completion and retention

(11) call to provide adequate funding for the backlog of Indigenous students seeking funding.

TRU response:

- Increased grants/awards for financially challenged students
- TteS & T'exelc awards/scholarships (6 x \$2500 Spring)
- Emergency Funding available for Indigenous students (\$900) per year.

Language & Culture

(16) We call upon post-secondary institutions to create university & college degree & diploma programs in Aboriginal languages.

- 2022-2032 Decade of Indigenous Languages (revitalization & preservation of languages)

TRU response:

- TRU offering increased number of Indigenous languages (Secwepemc at both campuses, Stat'imc, Tsilhqot'in (WL))
- Indigenous specific courses developed across all faculties
- Secwepemc language embedded at many levels (Vision statement, committees, courses)

GAPS:

- Introduction level 1-2 courses only
- Inability to complete a degree in an Indigenous language
- Fluent speakers need only certification to teach an Indigenous language (not the whole teaching program)

Health

(24) We call on medical & nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal Health issues including the history and legacy of Residential Schools, UNDRIP, treaties & Aboriginal rights, Indigenous teachings & practices. This will require Skill based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

TRU Response:

- Indigenous courses & training available to all students
- Partnership with TteS
- In-community training and practicum placements
- Addressing community training needs directly

JUSTICE

(28) We call upon all Law schools to require all law students take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, UNDRIP, Treaties & Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights & anti-racism.

TRU response:

- Indigenous applicant review process
- Indigenous specific funding available (awards office)
- TRU-USASK Indigenous summer entry course
- Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA)
- Secwepemc content integrated into all 3 years of JD program and community site visits
- Indigenous advisor (TteS practicing lawyer)

Reconciliation

(43) We call upon the federal, provincial territorial and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement UNDRIP as the framework for reconciliation.

TRU response:

- UNDRIP adopted into all TRU Senate Committee TOR's
- Reconciliation workshops & training available to faculties and employees

Education & Reconciliation

(62.ii) Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge & teaching methods in the classroom.

TRU Response:

- Indigenous B. Ed Program
- Embedding Indigenous knowledge & content
- Increase Indigenous faculty

Sports & Reconciliation

(87) We call upon all levels of government in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports hall of fame, and other relevant organizations to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal Athletes in history.

TRU response:

- Tkemlups te Secwepemc invitation to participate as guest speakers and badges to honour KIRS
- Indigenous Reconciliation guest speakers
- Local Indigenous coaching participation & collaboration

INDIGENOUS EVENTS

- Orange Shirt Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Indigenous Awareness Week
- Indigenous Summer Science Camp
- Elders Luncheon (300+)
- Youth Leadership Conferences
- Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirited (MMIWG)
- TRU Indigenous Book Club
- TRU Pow Wow
- Secwepemc Scholars Gathering
- June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day event
- New employee welcome ceremony (Secwepemc territory marker in OM)
- Louis Riel Day events
- Indigenous guest speakers
- Cultural workshops & events

