

THOMPSON

Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwepemcúl'ecw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. The region TRU serves also extends into the territories of the St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, Tŝilhqot'in, Dakelh, and Syilx peoples.







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THANK YOU. KUKWSTSÉTSEMC.

We are better because of you

Working with TRU's partners, friends and donors over the last five years has been a profound honour. So too is witnessing the increasing support from all who have joined us in the spirit of collaboration. Charitable giving to TRU is growing and advancing education, training, research and scholarship. Looking ahead, we are committed to:



- · Supporting students and eliminating achievement gaps by reducing barriers to academic excellence
- Honouring Truth and Rights through wider and deeper partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities
- Advancing research and graduate learning
- Taking tangible steps to make our campuses more environmentally responsive, responsible and sustainable
- Ensuring learners and communities hear about what TRU can do for you

It is my commitment to all our partners to keep TRU moving in the right direction, guided by our values. Thank you to all TRU supporters who make this university stronger.

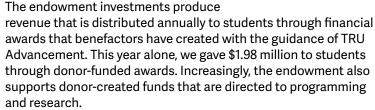
Kukwstsétsemc.

Brett Fairbairn TRU President and Vice-Chancellor

Foundation endowment nears \$32 million

The decisions donors make when giving charitably are complex. Personal finances. family, dependents, interest rates, inflation — all these factors influence someone's ability to give. That is why we are endlessly grateful to the people who choose, despite all circumstances, to support TRU.

The TRU Foundation has stewarded donor funds for four decades and, today, our endowment sits at nearly \$32 million.



Thank you to all the benefactors who make this possible by giving to education, to the members of the TRU Foundation Board of Directors for their leadership, and to the hardworking TRU Advancement staff who continue to advance philanthropy at TRU. Sincerely.

Rick Heney

TRU Foundation President



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR YEAR









TRU Day of Giving on March 2-3, 2023 focused on raising funds for essential equipment in nursing and respiratory therapy, and supporting the Williams Lake campus. With a new goal to raise \$48,000 in 48 hours, Day of Giving saw 109 generous donors give in support of TRU students.

Donations totaled \$54,095 — exceeding the goal for the

seventh year in a row.



WATCH: Spotlight on Day of Giving featured funds





TRU employees pledged more than \$70,000 in October 2022 when staff, faculty and administrators were invited to support students with a payroll deduction gift. **The campaign saw 33 new donors and all gifts were generously matched up to \$20,000.** TRU employees also support the United Way, giving more than \$35,000 annually to the charity through payroll deduction.



Originally known as "Club Ed," the TRU Foundation has been running the payroll 50/50 raffle for 18 years. This year, registrations returned to pre-pandemic levels, with the bi-weekly prize now up to \$1,125 for the employee winner and \$1,125 going to TRU Foundation open awards for students with financial need. Through payroll lottery, 1,560 students have received a total of \$948,862.



In celebration of TRU World's 40th anniversary, the TRU Foundation launched a 50/50 raffle at International Days in March 2023. The raffle supports the TRU World Relief Fund: emergency funding for international students facing financial uncertainty due to crisis in their home countries. The raffle runs until November 2023 at tru.ca/worldraffle.

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PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Award recipients with passion to prosper

With the rising cost of post-secondary education, financial support has certainly decreased the financial burden. With gratitude, I was able to focus on my studies and achieve my educational goals."



Jennaya Motokado

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Awards received: Mildred Lee Memorial Nursing Scholarship, Ted & Eileen Pare Memorial Award, TRU Medal in Nursing

In all honesty, I am still in quite a bit of shock.
This is seriously life changing for me. I work as much as I possibly can while attending university, and spend my summers doing double, just to afford to go. Words cannot express my thanks enough."



Grace ClemontBachelor of Arts, English

Awards received: Dr. Joan Sherman Weir Memorial Scholarship



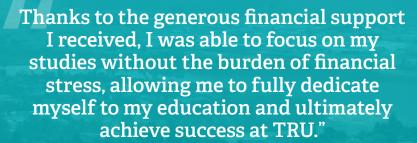
Being a university student comes with many kinds of stress, whether academic, social or financial. Financial support helped me greatly during my time in university through reducing some of this stress and allowing me to focus on my studies and my health."



Jared Frasca

Bachelor of Natural Resource Science

Awards received: SISCO Scholarship, W.H.
Stewart Memorial Scholarship, TRU Foundation
Undergraduate Achievement Scholarship, TRU
Medal in Natural Resource Science

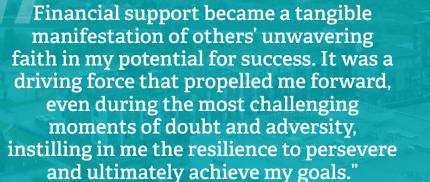




Adam Toor

Juris Doctor Candidate Bachelor of Business Administration

Awards received: TRU Foundation Undergraduate
Achievement Scholarship, Bruce & Therea Gysel
Bachelor of Business Administration Bursary, TRU
Alumni Association Scholarship, Alvin & Lydia Grunert
Undergraduate Scholarship





Bhavithry Sen Puliparambil
Master of Science in Data Science

Awards received: Governor General's
Academic Gold Medal. TRU Internal

Research Grant, NSERC Grant

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR RECONCILIATION

Donors endorse plan for Future Indigenous Lawyers

BARRY WILSON SPENT HIS YOUTH fighting for Indigenous rights through protests and activism. Thanks to those efforts, his daughter Tara-Lynn Wilson can continue the fight for justice and reconciliation from within.

"The things that we are able to do right now in BC started with the things that he (and others) were doing," she said. "They laid the groundwork. Now I'm going to use this opportunity to fight in my own way within the system so I can help the Indigenous population as well."

Wilson, who recently completed her second year of TRU Law, was the first recipient of the Future Indigenous Lawyers (FIL) Award by local Kamloops law firm, Fulton. The award is part of an initiative started by the firm to promote recruitment of and provide support to Indigenous law students. Fulton has committed \$75,000 to the fund and invites others to join the initiative. To date, additional donors Margot McMillan, the Law School Admissions Council, and Edwards, Kenny & Bray LLP have added another \$45,000 to the fund, which now sits at over \$100,000.

"This gift had been in our plans for a long time — many at our firm developed deep connections to survivors while hearing their stories as part of work representing them through Indian Residential School claims from 2000–2016," said Fulton partner Dan Carroll. "That work, along with the deep respect for our past and current Indigenous Fultoners, has shaped our firm's desire

to continue being active in supporting and learning about reconciliation."

Wilson is Secwépemc on her mother's side and Xen'ak'siala on her father's side. She and her four sisters grew up northwest of Kamloops in Bonaparte but spent a lot of time in Kitimat territory as well. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in psychology at TRU but says at the back of her mind she always felt the pull of law school. She had the drive; she just needed the confidence.

"For a long time, I felt like I wasn't smart enough to do it and then one day I thought,

you know what, if I get in, I get in," said Wilson.
"I want to do all of this mainly for my nieces and nephews. I want to make sure they're aware they can always go further. They shouldn't let anything hold them back."

Currently, only about three per cent of people working in the legal profession in BC identify as Indigenous. On the flipside, there is an over-representation of Indigenous people in the Canadian justice system, both as victims



TRU Law student Tara-Lynn Wilson (centre) along with several of Fulton's partners, (left to right) Leah Card, Ayla Salyn, Dan Carroll and Jessica Vliegenthart. Wilson is the first recipient of the Future Indigenous Lawyers Award by Fulton.

and accused. Wilson, co-president of the TRU Indigenous Law Students Association, is working to help increase the number of Indigenous students attending law school. She is hopeful that positive changes and improved cultural understanding will result from having more Indigenous lawyers.

In addition to receiving the Future Indigenous Lawyers Award, Wilson is also a Michelle Pockey Leadership Award recipient.

In pursuit of adventure on Secwépemc land

THE ADVENTURE STUDIES PROGRAM HAS

allowed Kiya Bennett to embrace her Secwépemc culture while pursuing a life of outdoor adventure.

"My Indigenous heritage is a big part of who I am," says Bennett, recipient of the first Mustang Powder Indigenous Adventure Studies Award at TRU. The award was created to encourage Indigenous students to pursue careers in backcountry guiding.

"Being in the adventure studies program has inspired me to share what I can and integrate (Indigenous knowledge) into my teaching lessons, which I think is pretty awesome," she says. "The best part is that people seem to listen and respect what I have to share."

The award provides financial support, but it also comes with mentorship and employment opportunities at Mustang Powder, a cat skiing operation and lodge owned by Ali and Nick Holmes-Smith located between Salmon Arm and Revelstoke in the Monashee Mountains. The duo started Monashee Powder Cat Skiing (now known as Mustang Powder Cat Skiing) in 1998 and six years later opened Mustang Powder Lodge.

"In our early years of operation, we were flat-out busy trying to make our business a success. Now that our company is well established, we are in a position to assist local First Nations youth to



Through the TRU Adventure Studies program, student Kiya Bennett has discovered a love of paddling.

pursue careers in adventure tourism. We are fully aware that Mustang operates on First Nations land (Secwépemc) — and for that we are grateful," says Nick Holmes-Smith.

Mustang Powder Lodge Inc. donated \$50,000 to create the Mustang Powder Indigenous Adventure Studies Award to be disbursed through individual awards of up to \$5,000.

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PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

Donation to WolfPack training is largest to date

IN UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS. ONE QUESTION

always remains paramount: What does it take to win?

While there isn't a "magic formula," we do know that talented coaches and scholarships to attract top athletes are pivotal to the WolfPack's success. Facilities also play a large role.

In 2023, the Kamloops Sports Legacy Fund (KSLF) gifted the TRU WolfPack with its largest-ever

donation — \$500,000 — equipping the university's new varsity high-performance athletics centre in the upper mezzanine of the TRU Gym. KSLF donated \$375,000 to the athletics centre and \$125,000 to student awards and scholarships.

TRU Athletics utilizes facilities both on campus at the TRU Gym and at the neighbouring Tournament Capital Centre (TCC) and Hillside Stadium. While use of the state-of-the-art TCC is ideal for practice and game play, sharing space for strength and

training facilities was an ongoing challenge. Scheduling and time limitations, a lack of physical space and limited equipment all hindered student athletes' training potential.

The Sports Legacy Fund High Performance Training Centre, completed in 2023, has significantly expanded training opportunities for WolfPack athletes. TRU invested \$1.3 million in the renovations and hired a full-time head coach, strength and conditioning for the space. KSLF's



donation outfitted the 156-square-metre space with lifting stations, speed-work tracks and other equipment.

"This contribution from the Kamloops Sports Legacy Fund will help TRU studentathletes develop on and off the field of play to reach their full potential," says Curtis Atkinson, TRU director of athletics and recreation. "This facility will also make it easier to recruit top athletes to the WolfPack and take our athletics program to a new level."

This isn't the first time the KSLF has supported the TRU WolfPack, Since 2011. the fund has provided the TRU WolfPack with donations that, up to present, amount to \$250,000.

KSLF executive director Bob Smillie says the organization has long supported the WolfPack and this is an opportunity to help TRU Athletics continue providing a top student-athlete experience.

"A major goal of the society is to strengthen sport organizational capacities. The grant represents a true legacy for the WolfPack, the university as a whole and the City of Kamloops and region. It is a most worthy investment at an opportune time," he says.

Fear the Wolf

IN THE ULTRA-COMPETITIVE RECRUITING

world, scholarships are a significant factor for prospective student-athletes when choosing a school. Supporting them through awards or bursaries has an immediate impact by giving students a chance to pursue their education and their athletics.

When students-athletes are supported, success follows. Such was the case in November 2022 when the TRU WolfPack men's soccer team earned its first U SPORTS National Championship in program and school history with a 2-1 victory over the UBC Thunderbirds in front of 2.400 fans at Hillside Stadium. TRU proudly hosted the championship with RBC as the title sponsor. Donors provide nearly \$140,000 for student-athlete awards and scholarships annually.



PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES



Thanks to educational opportunities and donor support, TRU student Kelly Davison and her husband Brian are building a sustainable future for themselves and their children.

Lightbulb moment leads family to sustainable ranching

TRU STUDENT KELLY DAVISON SPENT

her childhood feeling "less than." Living in foster care for several years, she says her foster mother did her best, but it wasn't enough to counter the exclusion she felt in the school system and greater community. Facing hardship, adversity and discrimination, Davison's dreams were quashed before they even entered her mind.

"I never imagined myself going to university. I didn't even see that as being a possibility until I was 29 years old. I didn't even consider for a moment that that door was open to me," says Davison, who spent years working entry level jobs, believing that was the best she could do. With the birth of her daughter Julia in 2010, Davison's world slowly began to open. Eventually, it led her to the Cariboo.

When the world locked down in 2020 and uncertainty loomed, Davison and her husband decided the timing was right to change course and create a more sustainable future for themselves and their children.

"The Cariboo was the first place where not only could we afford farming based on price per acre, but where it felt like home," she says.

Davison's husband Brian had a background in agriculture and a good idea of what

ranching meant to him, but Davison had a different vision.

"I didn't know what I was doing," she says. "I knew that I had all the passion for it, but I was asking him a lot of questions and the things that I wanted to farm were not the things he is familiar with."

Davison's lightbulb moment came one day as she was driving through the countryside listening to a discussion about sustainable, regenerative agriculture on CBC Radio. She immediately knew she had to learn more and called a friend.

"I said to her. 'This is what I need. I need to learn about regenerative or sustainable farming. I need to be able to do it from our home because we have young kids and I want to get started right away," she says.

Davison registered for the Applied Sustainable Ranching (ASUR) program at TRU in Williams Lake and began as soon as she could. Within the first few weeks, Davison recalls ASUR Director Gillian Watt encouraging students to apply for student awards. At that point, she says she didn't feel worthy and didn't heed Watt's advice — a decision she later regretted.

"I should have just applied and trusted that the donors would pick whoever was the most deserving," she says. The next semester, she applied and encouraged her classmates to do the same.

The applications took her three hours to complete and for much of that time her daughter, now 13, sat alongside. She explained to Julia that while there's no guarantee you'll win, it's important to apply for any awards you are eligible for, even when the process feels uncomfortable.

"I can't give her everything that I want to give her, but to be able to give her that role model of gratitude and vulnerability in supportive and safe spaces, I think is really important. She's the one who motivated me to go to school and do better with my life because I wanted to do better for her," Davison says.

Davison received the TRU Grit Entrance Award, Chan Wai Chiu Memorial Bursary and Howard Beharrell Memorial Bursary. She is now in her final semester of the program. Through passion and sweat equity, the Davison family farm is slowing taking shape.

Williams Lake campus gets capital boost

THE FRESHLY FINISHED TRU CARE Apartment on TRU's Williams Lake campus is providing crucial experiential learning opportunities for health-care students.

Plans for the fully functional and easily transformable apartment originally included a patient lift, but budget constraints forced planners to take it off the list. Thanks to a generous donation from the Fawcett Family of Williams Lake, the apartment now includes the much-needed lift, a wish-list item faculty are delighted to have received.

Capable, compassionate care is a key part of any health-care role but is especially needed in long-term care settings and when working with elderly patients and their families. TRU's Williams Lake campus offers three health-care programs: Health Care Assistant, Practical Nursing and the first two years of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Students in all these programs will benefit from the TRU Care Apartment.



Bachelor of Science in Nursing students (left to right) Amrik, Lukhvir, Hailie (in lift) and Zoe show Bill Fawcett (centre) the new TRU Care Apartment, which includes the patient lift funded by the Fawcett Family in honour of their late father. Charlie Fawcett.

PHILANTHROPY MATTERS TO TRU ALUMNI

Business grads back Norm Daley Initiative



Dr. Norm Daley

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF **FINANCIAL** support on students is far reaching, but it can't happen without donors — the more donors, the greater the impact. With that in mind. Kamloops philanthropist Norm Daley started an initiative to increase the number of

scholarships and awards for students at TRU.

The Norm Daley Initiative invites 30 donors to contribute \$35,000 each to establish their own endowed award at TRU. With a fundraising goal of \$1 million, this fund is opening doors for TRU students and ensures support for generations to come. Rob Williamson and business partners Mike Macphee and Clayton Burkatsky, all TRU alumni, decided to join the initiative to give back to students while bolstering the university's reputation.

"We're big fans of TRU graduates," Williamson says, adding that 19 alumni work with them at LMG Finance. "I think Norm's idea of developing a goal to offer more financial assistance to students is fantastic. It aligns perfectly with what we are trying to do in terms of supporting the university as well as recognizing how we are beneficiaries of the university's talent and graduates."

Williamson has maintained his connection to the

university since his days at UCC. He served on the alumni board for several years, acted as a career mentor and has regularly hired TRU graduates. Along with his family and business partners, Williamson created the LMG LoanLink Fintech Award, slated for third-year business or computer science students with financial need as one of the main criteria.

Williamson says he benefited from financial aid as a young student-athlete and knows how much of an impact support can have on a student. More

than just the financial boost, he says the mental encouragement it provides is incalculable. He encourages other alumni and TRU supporters to consider being part of the initiative.

"The idea was to get behind something that's bigger than us," Williamson says. "It's about us wanting students to have better opportunities, enhancing TRU and definitely showing our gratitude. This initiative is here to help make the university the best it can be and the most accessible it can be."



Business partners and TRU alumni (left to right) Clayton Burkatsky, Rob Williamson and Mike Macphee.

Alum secures modern equipment for RT program

SOMETIMES SUCCESS IS A MATTER of being in the right place at the right time — something TRU alum Wendy Marlow (RT diploma, UCC'85) is a big believer

Before Marlow became the executive director of the Kamloops Hospice Association, she had a storied career in respiratory therapy (RT), taking on leadership positions with Associated Respiratory Services

(ARS), becoming a shareholder in the company and forming a foundation to give to respiratory projects.

That foundation — the Associated Respiratory Holdings (ARH) Healthcare Foundation — donated \$55,000 so TRU could purchase a cutting-edge Servo-u ventilator. The ventilator is helping students in the RT program practise current modes of ventilation in its simulation labs so that they're more prepared when they go into clinical training. Marlow remembers the equipment she learned on in the '80s and it pales in comparison to what TRU has today.

"It's amazing. It's state-of-the-art. The advancement of technology has happened so fast."



PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Donors step forward as labour shortages loom

TRADES PROGRAMS HAVE AN INTEGRAL role in driving economic prosperity and building a skilled workforce for the future.

About 75,000 new apprentices will need to be hired annually over the next several years to meet growing demand, according to the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum. Welding and industrial mechanics are two of the trades at risk of not meeting that demand. The construction industry also needs to recruit more than 300,000 new workers over the next 10 years.

TRU's School of Trades and Technology is doing its part to ensure experienced, skilled tradespeople are continually entering the workforce. Meanwhile, companies in the trades sector are using their charitable bandwidth to enhance training and create opportunities for tradespeople.

Through donor funding as well as industry partnerships and collaborations, students get the most out of their trades education because of opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom.

Dollars at work in trades training

Lab visionary and Associate Professor Paul Simpson aspired to design a piping lab at TRU for years, but without funding, his plans were no more than pipe dreams. That is until Andrew Sheret Ltd. stepped up with a \$100,000 donation to upgrade the facility.



Associate Professor Paul Simpson shows two young students how a multi-piping system works.

In addition, Andrew Sheret also established the Andrew Sheret Limited Plumbing Award, a \$1,500 annual award set to support piping students for the next 10 years.

"We enjoy investing in the future and the trades are where it's at these days," says Chris Eugster, Andrew Sheret regional manager. "Experiential learning creates curiosity and curiosity is how you

learn. If you're not invested and interested in it, you're never going to learn."

School of Trades and Technology Dean Baldev Pooni said the lab is the only one of its kind in BC and far beyond, simulating the piping system of a multi-unit dwelling so students can see a live demo of water flowing through a multi-pipe system.

"I dreamed about something like this for a long time," says Simpson. "The new glass lab benefits students by allowing them to be immersed in an actual working drainage system. We use the lab to introduce experiential learning practices where students can ask questions based on textbooks and experiment with the lab to see a new outcome. This is a big change from traditional trades training."

Elsewhere in TRU Trades, donors are helping students showcase their hard-earned skills — just one more way they become competitive in the job market. FastCut CNC Inc. provided \$15,000 for students to compete in Skills Canada competitions, covering their competition-related expenses.

Many TRU welding students — past and present - have been medal winners at Skills Canada competitions, much to the pride of welding instructor Larry Franzen. FastCut owner Russel Gallup is also a product of TRU Trades as an alum of the school.

"Russ and the team at FastCut are instrumental to our success at Skills Canada," says Franzen. Whenever and whatever we need, FastCut is there to help."



support for the School of Trades





2022-2023 SUPPORTERS

Thank you to these donors who have made contributions this year (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023)

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\$100.000-\$249.999

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