

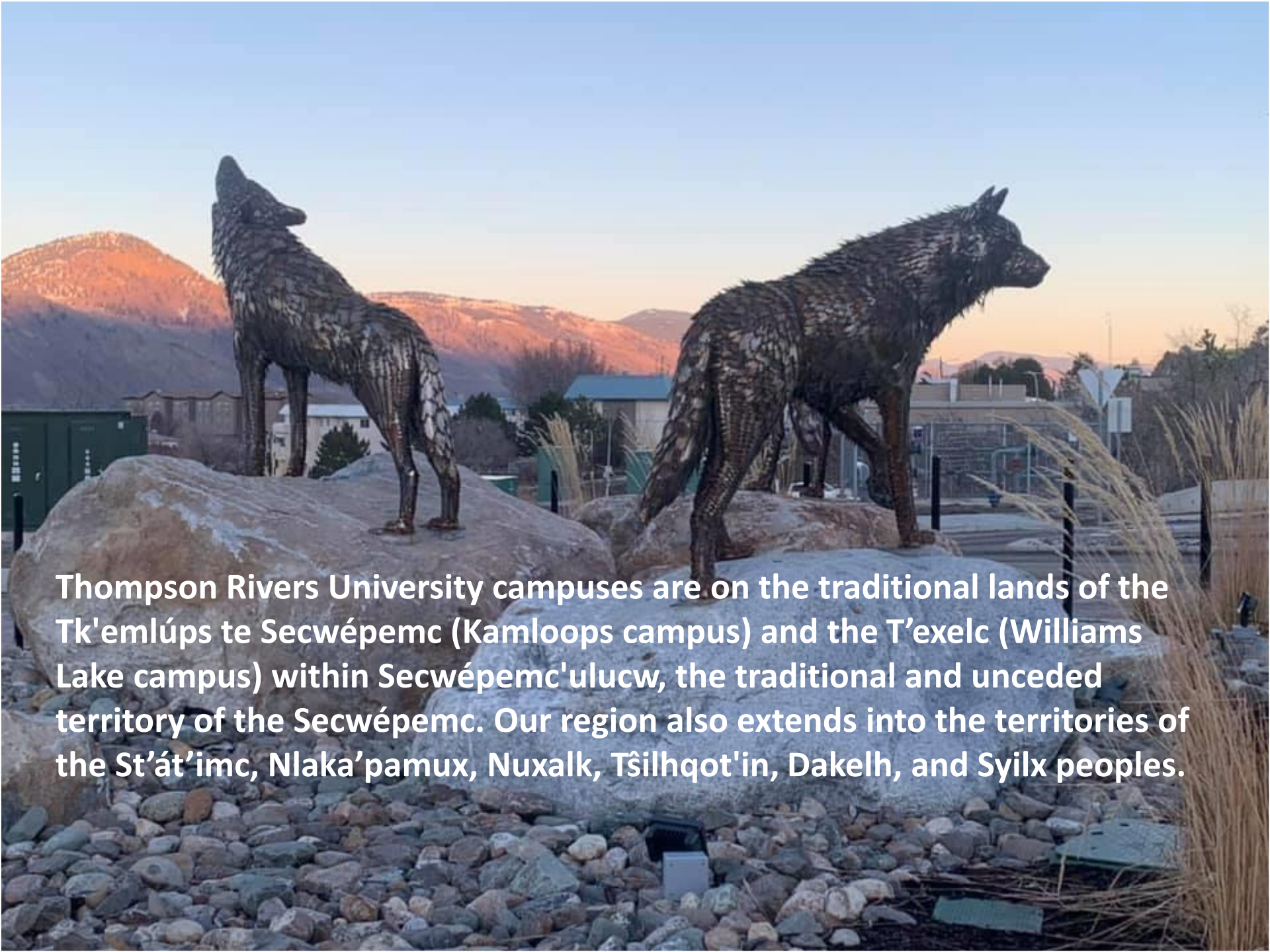
# Educational Philosophy Statements

**May 7, 2021**



**THOMPSON  
RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY**

Centre for  
Excellence in  
Learning & Teaching



**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 Secwépemc'ulucw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. Our region also extends into the territories of the St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, T̓silhqot'in, Dakelh, and Syilx peoples.**

# Today's Plan

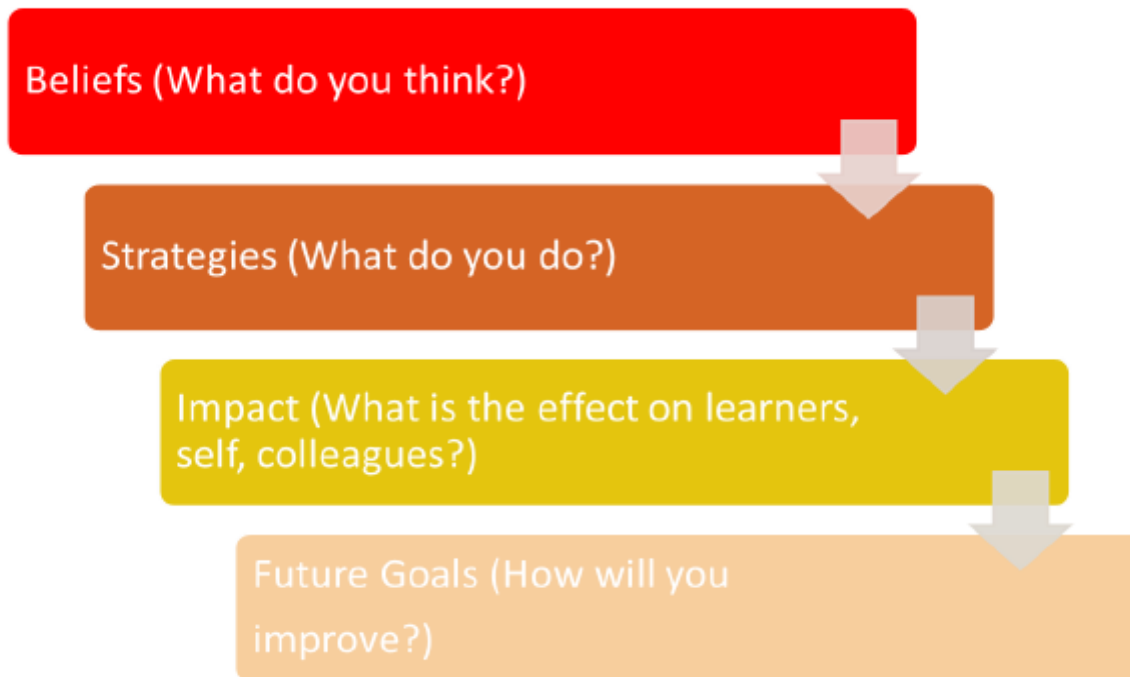
- Purpose
- Key components
- Big themes, values, perspectives
- Example philosophy statements
- Writing components
- Sharing

# Why an Educational Philosophy Statement?

- To provide
  - An introduction your dossier
  - A roadmap of your expertise
  - A framework for your evidence
- To tell your story



# What Are the Key Components of a Educational Philosophy Statement?



(Kenny, Berenson, Jeffs, Nowell, & Grant, 2018)

# Big Themes

## Values & Perspectives:

- [Use the list provided to get started](#)
- Name and explain what's important to you
- Think about times when you acted accordingly in your professional role
- Spend a few minutes writing about those times.





# Examples



- Scan the [sample philosophy statements](#)
- In small groups, select 1-2 samples and discuss them- what elements resonate with you most
- Find two or three good passages, sentences, and paragraphs that inspire you and share them with your group, considering how they might apply to or be revised for your own context.

The background of the image shows a person's hands writing on a piece of paper. The hands are positioned on the right side of the frame, with the right hand holding a pen and writing. The left hand is resting on the paper. A white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Write!' and a list of two bullet points. The text box has a torn bottom edge. The background is slightly blurred, showing the person's hands and the paper they are writing on.

## Write!

- With your values and the examples in mind that resonate with you, write statements about your own educational practice.
- Think about examples from your practice and evidence to support your statements.



# Critical Moments

(in case you need help getting started)



Image by Markus Spiske of Unsplash

- [Use the worksheet provided](#)
- Write about when you acted according to your values:
  - What, where, when, how and why, who
  - Times of discord/debate show your stripes
  - Add in plenty of details—edit later

# Share

- Share with someone
- Share with the larger group



# To Conclude

- Write now, edit later
- No single approach
- Specificity matters - use examples
- Tie it to the evidence in your dossier
- Review samples from colleagues
- Find friendly reviewers to look at yours



# Resources

## Worksheet:

Ellis, D., & Griffin, G. (2000). Developing a teaching philosophy statement: A special challenge for graduate students. *Journal of Graduate Teaching Assistant Development*, 7(2), pp. 85-92.

## Slides:

Brown, B.. (2019). List of Values. *Dare to Lead*. Retrieved from:  
<https://daretolead.brenebrown.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Values.pdf>

Kenny, N., Berenson, C., Jeffs, C., Nowell, L., & Grant, K. (2018). Teaching Philosophies and Teaching Dossiers Guide. Calgary, AB: Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning. Retrieved from <http://www.ucalgary.ca/taylorinstitute/resources/>

Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (2020). Sample Teaching Philosophies and Dossiers: Teaching Philosophy Statements (various authors). Retrieved from <https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/sample-teaching-philosophy-statements>



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