Community Research Initiative

TRU’s Community Research Initiative responds to the key academic and research goals of the university:

1. The Academic Plan ensures our students have access to a research-informed education and our communities have access to the benefits of scholarly, research and creative activities to solve community problems and enrich community life.
2. TRU’s Strategic Research Plan (SRP) outlines as a major objective: to “reinforce and facilitate TRU’s role and leadership in the linking of research to community social, cultural, scientific, educational, technological and economic development.”

Given TRU’s strong tradition of community-based research, the SRP underscores the need to “facilitate the development of partnerships with communities, scholars, non-profits, cultural organizations, industries, institutions, government ministries and agencies for pursuing mutual objectives.” Through partnerships with the United Way, the City of Kamloops and other non-profit organizations, TRU has set the stage for the continuation of meaningful community-driven research initiatives.

The Community Research Initiative’s principle aims include:

- Support for opportunities that encourage community-university collaborations through knowledge mobilization such as conferences, speaker series
- Development of research memorandums of understanding
- Creation of student research opportunities
- Promoting shared funding opportunities

The Opportunity - Community Driven Research Fund (CDRF)

As part of the Thompson Rivers University Community Research Initiative, the Community-Driven Research Fund (CDRF) is designed to support research between non-for-profit community organizations within the Thompson Nicola Cariboo region of the United Way and TRU. These projects are expected to be community-driven, with the research outcomes primarily benefiting the community organization. The Research must:

- Respond directly to community needs
- Build research partnerships with community organizations in the Thompson Nicola Cariboo region
- Provide opportunities for students to become involved in community-based research
- Help faculty and their community partners become more competitive for external funding
COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

Value and Duration

- The $25,000 annual fund has been established to provide a minimum of 10 awards per year for three years (November 2016 – October 2019)
- Maximum grants up to $2,500 per research project. Matching contribution of up to $2,500 in cash or in-kind is required from the community organization
- Funds must be expended within 1 year of approval and expenditures must conform to the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide

Eligibility

Full-time TRU faculty are eligible to apply. Eligibility includes all faculty members with ongoing or tenure-track appointments, and term-certain faculty holding appointments of more than one year and not in the final year of those appointments. Those holding sessional or one-year term-certain appointments may contribute to and receive funding from an approved project, but they are not eligible to apply directly for funding from the Community-Driven Research Fund. The grant may be held as a complement to a student UREAP Award.

Application Process

Applications must be co-developed with the community organization, TRU faculty member, and TRU’s Knowledge Mobilization Officer. It must contain the following information:

- The name of the community organization and contact information
- Information on the organization’s mandate and mission
- A description of the research project, including: (maximum 500 words)
  a. the significance to the community organization and impacts of the project
  b. description of the role of student(s) and summary of student(s) job description
  c. explanation of the research methods and how they align with project needs and student(s) abilities
  d. a clearly-defined Knowledge Mobilization plan, including a plan to archive research results in TRUspace. (see http://libguides.tru.ca/truspace)
  e. description of the research plan’s potential to lead to a larger research opportunity which qualifies for external funding
- The proposed timeline of the project, including anticipated start and end dates
- An itemized budget including cash and in-kind contributions and justification of all proposed expenditures
- Applications will be accepted for three years on a continuous basis starting Nov 1, 2016