Territorial Acknowledgment

Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'éxelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwepemcúlucw, 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.

We acknowledge and give honour to the Secwépemc—the ancestral peoples who have lived here for thousands of years—upon whose traditional and unceded land Thompson Rivers University is located. The Secwépemc maintain a strong connection to the land, water, air, animals, plants and all things needed for life on Mother Earth. It is with that in mind that we owe this debt of gratitude.

Message from the Chancellor

Weytk!
Welcome to Thompson Rivers University, either as a new or returning Indigenous student.

Our goal is to provide programs of relevance tailored to your post-secondary education aspirations whether it be through our in-person classes at our Kamloops or Williams Lake campuses or our online offerings through Open Learning. We also provide academic, social and cultural supports through the Cplúl’kw’ten House and the Indigenous Education office. Please take advantage of the several Indigenous social and cultural events that take place throughout the academic year.

Enjoy your stay with us!

Nathan Matthew, Chancellor

Self-identified Indigenous students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent of total student population</th>
<th>Origins</th>
<th>Identity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11% Kamloops</td>
<td>89% from BC</td>
<td>68% First Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28% Williams Lake</td>
<td>50% from TRU region</td>
<td>31% Métis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7% Open Learning</td>
<td>11% from out of province</td>
<td>1% Inuit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Per data as of May 2023 from TRU Integrated Planning & Effectiveness (IPE)

The circle on the left is Seklép (Creator, Trickster, teacher) on his educational journey at TRU. It is synonymous with Indigenization and represents working in partnership and supporting one another.

Dark blue on the outside represents Séwllkwe (Water)
Green represents Specéc (Air)
Brown represents the Tmicw (Land)
Orange represents the Skwékw7es (Sun)
Yellow represents the Mégcen (Moon)
Message from the President

Weytk.

Making the decision to attend university is a big step. I want to commend you for taking this step, as a university education has lasting impacts—not only for you but for those around you, including your family, friends, and community.

At TRU, we are committed to the success of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all Indigenous learners. One of our distinctive characteristics is the strength of our connection to Indigenous communities and students. Our Coyote Project uniters all of TRU—nine faculties as well as TRU World, Open Learning and the Library—in creating a campus that is welcoming and supportive to all, especially Indigenous students and staff.

Our main goal, however, is helping you find a place of belonging at TRU that reflects who you are and what you believe is important. I encourage you to explore all that TRU offers, both in learning opportunities and support.

Kukwstítsémk.

Brett Fairbairn,
TRU President and Vice-Chancellor

Message from Special Advisor to the President on Indigenous Matters

Weytk.

As Special Advisor to the President on Indigenous Matters, I focus on leading the development of a collective vision, set of values and strategic direction for indigenization at TRU. I work within the university and externally with the community to ensure the implementation of dynamic and transformative Indigenous initiatives. Most importantly, at TRU we honour and implement Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) recommendations and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) for universities in a manner that is aligned with TRU’s strategic priorities related to indigenization.

As a member of the Secwépemc community of Cstélen (Adams Lake), I fully recognize the traditional territories of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and our second house Weytk! to the Simpcw First Nation, which means “People of the Rivers.” Both of TRU’s campuses are located on the unceded territory of the Secwépemc nation. I would like to thank our first house Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, and our second house T'etxelc (Williams Lake First Nation) for allowing us as guests in their beautiful territories.

The Indigenous Education office is the academic administrative department that supports TRU with implementing the TRC’s Calls to Action, and UNDRIP into all levels of the university. We are broad-based and work closely with TRU faculties on indigenization and research efforts. We support Indigenous Student Development (Cplúl’kw’ten) with TRU counsellors and career counsellors also working on a weekly basis. Computers are available if you simply need a quiet, familiar place to work.

Kukwstítsémk.

Gillian Balfour,
Provost and Vice-President Academic

Message from the Provost

Weytk.

Thank you for choosing TRU as your place to learn and grow. We are committed to ensuring your educational journey will be meaningful—we work with you to provide skills and knowledge that will help you find your path in life.

As an Indigenous learner, you are part of a special community with a long and rich history and a special relationship to the lands on which TRU is located. We recognize and honour Indigenous rights and values and strive to incorporate Secwépemc knowledge and wisdom into who we are as an institution.

The Secwépemc people respect the concept of Kxe’lewík’met – we are all connected. In the spirit of Kxe’lewík’met, I urge you to join our community and find your place in it. Our academic programs, courses and support services are designed to help you do so, in a way that enriches all by the effort.

Kukwstítsémk.

Tina Matthew,
Executive Director of Indigenous Education

Message from Executive Director of Indigenous Education

Weytk!

Tina Matthew ren swekeks te Simpcw sident te, LÁM. I am from Simpcw First Nation, which means “People of the Rivers.” Both of TRU’s campuses are located on the unceded territory of the Secwépemc nation. I would like to thank our first house Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, and our second house T’etxelc (Williams Lake First Nation) for allowing us as guests in their beautiful territories.

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Services for Indigenous Students

There is support for you throughout your entire journey with TRU.

Cplúl’kw’ten
kuh·plul·kuh·tin

Cplúl’kw’ten provides a social support system to help enhance your sense of community at TRU as well as advocates on important issues including discrimination and harassment. Join us for potlucks, social events and other fun events in a culturally-safe space. You will also be able to connect with an Indigenous counsellor through TRU’s Counselling Services.

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS
Math and writing tutors visit Cplúl’kw’ten weekly and can meet with you one to one to support you with your projects. If you’d like guidance choosing courses and exploring career options, academic advisors and career counsellors also visit on a weekly basis. Computers are available if you simply want a quiet, familiar place to work.

INDIGENOUS MENTOR PROGRAM
This program makes the transition to university easier for new students, and provides training to more experienced students who wish to share their knowledge. Mentorship can range from one-on-one to group activities.

ELDER IN THE HOUSE PROGRAM
The importance of learning from Elders spans across First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures. Elders provide traditional consultation, conversation and guidance.

MEET WITH A LIBRARIAN
TRU Librarians are a great resource to get help with your research, and you can make an appointment online to meet and discuss your project. There is also an Indigenous study room available in the Library.

WEDNESDAY SOUP CIRCLES
Soup Circle Wednesdays are a weekly opportunity to connect with fellow students and enjoy free food.

WEDNESDAY SOUP CIRCLES

Counselling Services

TRU counsellors promote and support the career development, academic success and personal growth of all TRU students. TRU students can request to meet with an Indigenous counsellor who can provide professional services firmly rooted in Indigenous culture.

Writing Centre

Book an appointment or drop in for feedback on your writing at any stage of the writing process—from assignment interpretation and idea generation, to sentence structure and grammar, and research and citation.

Math Help Centre

Find math and statistics help from TRU faculty and upper-level students, available during any of your courses at TRU.

The Gathering Place

Designed after a traditional pit house, the Gathering Place on the Williams Lake campus is a home away from home for Indigenous students. Speak with an Elder or the Indigenous Student Services Coordinator. Get assistance from a free tutor, access community resources and funding, or use the computers. Study, socialize or share a meal. It’s casual, it’s friendly and it’s yours.

The Gathering Place in Williams Lake.

The Gathering Place on the Kamloops campus.

accredited@tru.ca

tru.ca/wl-gatheringplace

gbob@tru.ca

ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

WEDNESDAY SOUP CIRCLES

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Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism

All adventure certificate students go on a residential school tour with an Elder at TRU in the first few months of their program. TRU partnerships with ski guiding and rafting businesses aim to increase the number of Indigenous youth entering the adventure industry. Students also examine cultural aspects of fishing, canoeing and other activities with Indigenous youth. Recent projects include the building of backcountry campsites to help preserve a sacred midden site. Culinary Arts students have opportunities to work with Elders and Indigenous culinary experts to learn about Indigenous culture and practices related to food.

Faculty of Arts

The faculty is recruiting Indigenous faculty members, indigenizing course content, building a language and culture course, creating a cultural camp designed by Elders and developing a peer support/mentorship program to increase retention rates for Indigenous students by hiring student mentors (most of whom are Indigenous).

Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics

In addition to aiming to improve Indigenous student enrolment and completion of programs, the faculty is working towards one Indigenized course in every major. The Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics also has integral partnerships with the Tulo Centre of Indigenous Economics, NVIT/TRU MBA partnership and the Chnook Scholars Program.

Faculty of Education and Social Work

With the Bachelor of Education Indigenous cohort, there are learning opportunities for practicum places in Indigenous schools and working with Elders. The Faculty of Education and Social Work is rewriting curriculum to indigenize readings, course content, assessments and learning outcomes. A minimum of three new courses to indigenize readings, course content, assessments and learning outcomes. A minimum of three new courses are under development.

Faculty of Law

All law students take a course on Canadian Indigenous legal relations and are invited to visit First Nations communities. The TRU Indigenous Law Students Association creates a welcoming environment for everyone. Students from TRU Law participate annually in the Kawkwitsim National Aboriginal Moot, which deals with contemporary issues in Aboriginal-Government relations.

School of Nursing

Promoting Indigenous and cultural safety, the School of Nursing has one of the first university programs in Canada to do so. As well as initiating a research project called Indigenous Knowledge in Nursing: Coyote’s Teaching, the school expects to enhance its teaching and learning environments so Indigenous students feel welcome and non-Indigenous students are more culturally aware.

Faculty of Science

The faculty is building an environmental research and teaching collaboration that prioritizes Indigenous involvement, and has hired a new Indigenous Scholar in National Resource Science. Mentors visit elementary schools to bring more Indigenous students to summer camps, aiming to take the mystery and intimidation out of science and provide engaging, experiential learning.

Faculty of Student Development

To best support the academic, personal and career success of Indigenous students, Student Development staff and faculty are focusing their professional development on the impact of residential schools on current Indigenous students.

School of Trades and Technology

Offering trades and technology sampler and foundation programs in communities beyond Kamloops, the School of Trades and Technology is committed to reducing the need for transportation to, or accommodations on, campus.

Library

Off campus, the Library is developing partnerships with nearby First Nations to provide preservation and archival expertise of information, knowledge and special collections. A variety of library signage were made bilingual in English and Secwépemc, with more bilingual signs planned. The Library is also acquiring new Indigenization resources that will support on-campus indigenization of curriculum.

COYOTE PROJECT

The Coyote Project is TRU’s response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s calls to action. It has united TRU in creating a campus that is welcoming and supportive to all, especially Indigenous students and staff. Faculties and departments are addressing barriers to recruitment, retention and completion for Indigenous students.

tru.ca/coyote

Coyote Brings Food from the Upper World

This story tells how Coyote brought to earth the plants that the Secwépemc use for food and medicine, and how animals and fish got their special shape and features. The story closes with Coyote gathering all the people together and reminding them to enjoy the environment where they are, to share what they have, and to not ruin or destroy.

"It is your job to care for the land and to protect all living things. You are its caretaker."

WATCH: Paul Michel shares the Secwépemc story of Coyote the transformer
I have attended TRU for two years and I’m currently a fifth-year student athlete playing for the TRU WolfPack men’s basketball team. I am pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with a major in psychology. Being an individual who identifies as Indigenous has allowed me to connect with a variety of resources on campus. I have also met tons of great, friendly people during my time at TRU. As an Indigenous student athlete, I’ve been able to share my unique experiences with others and promote athletics events for my teams. I am honoured to be a student athlete and an Indigenous individual representing TRU.

– Kyrin Cybenko

I chose TRU because I wanted to study computer science and be close to my family at an affordable university. I am from Mount Currie/Líwat Nation. Cplúl’kw’ten was essential for me when I first arrived at TRU. Without it, I might not have succeeded in fitting in at university, which is a very different environment. I spent most of my first semester in The Gathering Place (Cplúl’kw’ten) and got help from many people, including some that are still my friends today. I have recommended TRU to my nephews and other First Nations from the Mount Currie area. I tell them about The Gathering Place (Cplúl’kw’ten) and about the many great people you meet in Kamloops.

– Melvin James

Beyond the Classroom

We embrace inclusiveness and celebrate Indigenous cultures with events, clubs and many other ways for you to get involved with your campus community.

TRUSU Board of Directors, Indigenous Representative

Qelmúcw Affairs Committee of Senate

Cplúl’kw’ten, House 5

Indigenous Mentors

Intercultural Ambassadors

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Intramural Sports

Cultural Activities

Free WolfPack Athletics tickets for students

Drumming Club

Indigenous Culture Club

Indigenous Law Club

International travel opportunities for Indigenous students

Indigenous Awareness Week

IDays

National Indigenous Peoples month (June)

Indigenous graduation celebration

It brought me a great sense of pride to represent TRU throughout my education journey. I spent many years working in the field of education. This made the final achievement that much more special—a Master of Education. I will continue to encourage Indigenous students to get an education, whether it’s in academics or trades. Follow your dreams “believe and achieve”.

You’re only given a little spark of madness, you mustn’t lose it. Robin Williams

– Geraldine Bob
Indigenization at TRU

Good work takes time. And at TRU, indigenizing initiatives are wide-ranging and ongoing.

TOWARDS INDIGENIZING HIGHER ED
A four-part online storytelling series that studies what it means to indigenize higher education.

INDIGENOUS INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

To support student success, TRU identified eight institutional learning outcomes (ILO) that all baccalaureate degree students will achieve as part of completion of their degree. These ILOs ensure students will graduate with a well-rounded base of knowledge in a variety of areas, including indigenization, in addition to the specialized knowledge they acquire in their degree.

FREE SECWÉPEMC LANGUAGE CLASSES

Classes offered once a year give faculty and staff an opportunity to learn the basics of Secwépemc language—introductions, greetings and pronunciation—and culture.

TULO CENTRE OF INDIGENOUS ECONOMICS

In partnership with the Bob Gaglardi School of Business and Economics, the Tulo Centre, located in Kamloops, works to develop and deliver three courses: First Nations Applied Economics, First Nations Land Management and First Nations Taxation Administration.

CH’NOOK SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Indigenous students enrolled in business studies can apply for this program. Ch’nook Scholars receive a $2,000 scholarship, two expenses-paid trips to provincial gatherings, business cards, professional head-shot, and many other opportunities to meet industry professionals and network with other scholars.

INDIGENOUS BOOK CLUB

This campus-wide club meets to discuss interesting and thought-provoking books on Indigenous topics. It’s an open and empowering space with room for discussions, questions and reflections.

Being a student at TRU is an experience I will never forget. At first it was hard, I did not know where to go, or about the supports available. I would go to class and then go straight back home. Academically, I was doing okay. Then eventually I found House 5 (Cplúl’kw’ten). That is where I found the support I needed to get through university life a bit more fun, and hopefully a lot less stressful. When you see me around, feel free to come ask me anything or simply say hello! – Lesley Campbell

I’m a geography student studying to become an elementary school teacher. I am Nlaka’pamux—originally from Boston Bar. Some of my interests include powwow dancing, travelling, photography and playing fetch with my cat. Along with being an Indigenous mentor on campus, I am also a member-at-large in the TRU Students’ Union equity committee, and a member of Kappa Beta Gamma (TRU’s sorority). As a mentor at Cplúl’kw’ten, my goal is to do my best to help make university life a bit more fun, and hopefully a lot less stressful. When you see me around, feel free to come ask me anything or simply say hello! – Mathilda Michel
Indigenous Research at TRU

OMBAASHI NETWORK
Ombaashi is the national coordinating centre for the Indigenous Network Mentoring Program and provides access and funding for Indigenous Healing Summer Schools at TRU or in students’ own territories. It also provides opportunities for Indigenous students to access international Indigenous mentors through online workshops, one-on-one relationships and speakers at the National Gathering.

KNOWLEDGE MAKERS
Indigenous students learn how to research and publish as Indigenous researchers. Up to 15 Indigenous undergraduate students each year form a research network and learn now to “make knowledge” from diverse and unexpected places. Knowledge Makers receive a $1,000 award and may participate in the Indigenous Cultural Education Exchange program.

UNDERGRADUATE CIRCLE
The Knowledge Makers Undergraduate Circle is a four-month annual program that is in-person and online and transforms university teaching and learning. Since 2015, more than 65 Indigenous students from at least 30 nations and bands have completed the program and published their first reviewed journal articles in the Knowledge Makers Journal. Knowledge Makers receive a $1,000 award at a dinner celebration concluding their experience and achievements.

KW’SELTKTNÉWS & INDIGENOUS CULTURE EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Kw’seltktnéws is centered on providing TRU Indigenous undergraduate students and Indigenous peers from our partnering universities the opportunity to work with Indigenous faculty members, and access mentorship from Elders to write and publish peer-reviewed articles. TRU students are then eligible to participate in a three-week international mobility opportunity to travel, connect and engage with peers in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States with a focus on Indigenous knowledge and shared issues.

Dr. Rod McCormick, an internationally recognized scholar on Indigenous wellness, leads the All My Relations Research Centre at TRU. The centre works in partnership with communities to advance Indigenous health and healing. McCormick is also a mentor with TRU’s Knowledge Makers program, which creates pathways for Indigenous undergraduate students to engage in research. McCormick is shown here collaborating with Indigenous students on a research project.
Meet your Elders

Valued for their wisdom, insight and knowledge of tradition and spirituality, Elders are available at the Kamloops and Williams Lake campuses to provide guidance, mentorship, personal consultation or simply conversation through the Elder in the House program.

tru.ca/elders

KAMLOOPS CAMPUS

Mike Arnouse, Adams Lake Indian Band
Elder Mike offers spiritual advice and guidance for everyone at Cplúlw'ten through his knowledge of ancestral songs, ceremonies and smudges. Elder Mike had the unfortunate experience of attending the Kamloops Indian Residential School (KIRS) until his grade 11 year. Survivor and storyteller, Elder Mike offers an honest perspective of the many issues that impact Indigenous people in Canada. He is known to be humble, welcoming, respectful, soft-spoken and witty.

Joanne Mary Brown, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, L’silu clan
Elder Joanne is a member of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation, L’silu clan, born and raised in her home territory near Burns Lake, British Columbia. She moved to Secwépemcúl’ecw from Prince George in 1996. Joanne’s previous work with Employment and Immigration Canada, as well as her studies in geography and anthropology (TRU) made a natural fit with an occupation in Indigenous post-secondary education. She is grateful for her amazing community, especially working with neighbours and friends. Elder Joanne strives to make sure that everyone is welcomed, and ensures they feel special in a way that is unique and unforgettable.

Leona (Doe) Thomas, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
Elder Leona is a mother and grandmother, and spent several years with First Nations in Alberta developing, implementing and reporting on health programs in those nations. She is happily retired and active in her community as an Elder with the Kamloops First Nations court.

Willaims Lake Campus

Diena Jules, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
Elder Diena’s relatives have deep roots in the Secwépemc community and Kamloops Indian Band. She is a survivor of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, as a day student until grade six and later living at the Residential School in 1971—the years she considers the dark ages of her life. She travelled as far as Quebec as a Paul Creek Tribal Dancer in her teenage years and pow-wow traditional dancer in BC. Elder Diena first completed a Bachelor of Education, followed by a Master of Arts where she wrote her thesis Traditional Ways Shuswap People Identified and Nurtured Gifted and Talented Girls. She worked as a librarian, educational researcher, teacher and department leader before moving into natural resource management and a cultural heritage study and genealogy research project in her home community. Elder Diena strives to be a good role model through her healthy lifestyle and respect for the natural world, by taking time to love and value those closest to her, and her belief that everyone is responsible for being the change we wish to make in the world.

Cecilia DeRose, Esk’etemc First Nation
An expert in Secwépemc language and culture, and in traditional and medicinal plants, Elder Cecilia is also known for her handiwork with hides, birch-bark baskets and beads, and for sharing that knowledge with others.

WILLIAMS LAKE CAMPUS

Cecilia DeRose, Esk’etemc First Nation
An expert in Secwépemc language and culture, and in traditional and medicinal plants, Elder Cecilia is also known for her handiwork with hides, birch-bark baskets and beads, and for sharing that knowledge with others.
Funding your education

There are many avenues for funding your education. Some Indigenous students are eligible to receive support from their band or other organizations to pay for post-secondary education.

**Sponsorship**

Confirm the process your Nation follows for post-secondary funding, then connect with us. Contact your band, Métis or other organization for information regarding the application process.

You will need to submit a Consent to Release Personal Information Form (Third Party) to your sponsor who has access to your TRU information. Your sponsor will need to submit the TRU Sponsorship Application form before your registration date, otherwise you will have to pay the necessary commitment fee to complete your registration.

It will take approximately two weeks for TRU to set up your tuition sponsorship contract. It is your responsibility to ensure your sponsor receives your course registration data form, which is their invoice for your costs.

For more information, email Robbi Davey at careereducation@tru.ca or visit tru.ca/cel

**Entrance Scholarships and Awards**

Every year TRU offers first-time undergraduate students with over $500,000 in entrance scholarships and awards. Specific requirements can be found at tru.ca/entrance.

**Ongoing Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards**

TRU offers 16 awards of $2,500 per year to Indigenous students enrolled full-time in at least the second year (30 completed credits) of an undergraduate campus degree program or full-time in any year of a master’s program. In addition, there is more than $1,900,000 available annually from the TRU Foundation in scholarships, bursaries and awards for TRU students who have completed at least one full-time semester. In total, TRU students receive more than $6 million dollars annually in student award funding.

**Loans and Grants**

Many students need additional support in funding their education. Government student loans and grants are available for full-time and part-time study.

**work Study**

Work Study is a TRU-funded financial assistance program which offers an opportunity for Canadian students to work part-time on campus in positions that accommodate their studies.

**Indigenous Experiential Learning**

Career and Experiential Learning (CEL) is a welcoming campus resource designed to support you in locating internships, experiential learning, and co-op opportunities while enrolled in your academic program.

CEL hosts events and workshops throughout the year and maintains the online Career Connections job board to connect you with employers wanting to hire students and recent graduates.

Get the support you need from an Indigenous experiential learning coordinator, as well as your program’s co-op coordinator, throughout the entire process of your co-op program.

The TRU Indigenous experiential learning coordinator can assist you with:

- Finding culturally relevant summer jobs, co-op work terms, internships and other opportunities.
- Connecting you with Indigenous organizations and First Nations community positions.
- Locating funding and wage subsidies for summer employment.

For more information, email Robbi Davey at careereducation@tru.ca or visit tru.ca/cel
KAMLOOPS CAMPUS

The roof line of the Old Main building on the Kamloops campus, as well as the hills in front of the Campus Activity Centre (CAC), were designed in the shape of Mt. Peter and Mt. Paul.

The two walkways that meet in the center of the Campus Commons represent the confluence of the North and South Thompson rivers.

Stop signs on TRU’s Kamloops campus include Est’íl, Secwépemc for “stop,”—a public indicator that TRU is located in the heart of Secwépemc territory.

EAST GATE ROUNDBABOUT

Mélem’ye (Wolves)

HOUSE OF LEARNING

Carved doors (HL 190)

Selkíp (Coyote)

Rattles and baskets

Tapestry

KEN LEPIN SCIENCE BUILDING

Painting, Eric Prytula, Haida

OLARA

Pictographs (Pictographs on basalt – Ed Jensen, Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc; pictograph on “hide” – Garry Gottfriedson)

OLD MAIN

Secwépemc Territory Marker

WILLIAMS LAKE CAMPUS

THE GATHERING PLACE

Carved entry doors

Salmon