# ANNUAL REPORT 2016





Foundation

# CHAIR'S REPORT

For 45 years TRU has taken pride in providing an excellent education to every student that comes to us—from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives, at various stages of their learning journey. For 34 of those years, the TRU Foundation has been raising funds to benefit TRU and our students.

In 2015-16 we successfully raised \$3.1 million for students, buildings and programs at TRU. This achievement would not be possible without the continued support of our generous donors and the work of our dedicated volunteers and staff. At fiscal year end the Foundation's Student Assistance endowment totaled \$16.4 million. 602 students were presented with 334 donor awards totaling \$729,000 at our fall awards ceremony.

#### 2015 highlights include:

- \$150,000 from Scotiabank towards financial awards for students enrolled in entrepreneurial courses in the School of Business and Economics.
- A gift of \$100,000 from Carl & Leslie Sulkowski to create an endowment for student bursaries.
- A \$100,000 gift from Dr. Ron & Rae Fawcett towards the Fawcett Family Bursary, bringing the Fawcetts' lifetime giving to \$730,000.

The Foundation also helped secure \$513,602 in provincial government funding for trades equipment, the Women in Trades Training program (Industry Training Authority), the Aboriginal Women in Trades program and the Driver Training program.

The 2015 Campaign breakfast focused on initiatives in the School of Nursing and celebrated key donor contributions to nursing. Stella Black was presented with a TRU Foundation Lifetime Dedication Award for her 34 years of support. Chair Bev Wassen-Hunter and an extensive team of volunteers put on the Foundation's 24th Gala which raises funds for scholarships and bursaries for students. The sold out event was a great success and included a Viennese theme and featured a menu, entertainment, and a European river cruise raffle to match.

Our success is possible only through the support of our loyal donors. A sincere thank you to all of our supporters who give the gift of education. You are helping us develop Thompson Rivers University into a world class institution and are making a real difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely

David Paul Chair, TRU Foundation

#### FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015/16





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#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Increasing student success is a priority at Thompson Rivers University. We do this through quality education and practical experience available to students within all disciplines. The range of educational opportunities our faculties provide help TRU attract outstanding students from our region, across Canada and around the world.

TRU has worked with funding partners and individual supporters in many ways throughout our history to increase student success.

We continue to reach out to our



**Alan Shaver**, President and Vice-Chancellor

communities to provide student assistance, support research initiatives and build the facilities that house our learning and research. Bursaries help students obtain a quality education regardless of their financial ability to pay and scholarships reward and encourage our best and brightest.

Through your donation you have a profound impact in the lives of our students. Many of our students struggle to support families while completing their education. They want to make a better life for themselves and their children, and your support helps them find their TRU potential.

Increasing our research impact is also a priority at TRU. We encourage the passion for discovery and invention. Donations from our friends, alumni, businesses and, of course, government funding, also enable TRU to carry out many outstanding research projects and as a result TRU has a growing reputation as an innovative and dynamic university.

Thank you to all our donors for supporting the students and research at TRU. We look forward to your continued involvement in making TRU an outstanding university.

Sincerely,

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Alan Shaver President and Vice-Chancellor



# 2015/16 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

#### **total funds raised** \$3,134,890

operating expenses \$316,907



#### **IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS**

**1298** awards benefitting **1175** students

Renovations to student space in Old Main Research Chair in Environmental Reclamation

#### student assistance endowment \$16,410,990

**Research endowment** \$6,702,107

# 2015-16 CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF BY CELEBRATING SCHOOL OF NURSING

Above: Student Heather Cameron thanks donors for the financial support which made it possible to return to school and create a career she loves.

More than 300 community supporters were present for this year's funding announcement and to give pledges related to the School of Nursing.

Among those thanked for their lifetime support of nursing:

- Ken Lepin \$238,000 towards nursing and \$2.5 million lifetime.
- Eleanor Thompson \$100,000 to start a nursing endowment and \$238,000 lifetime.
- RIH Evening Auxiliary \$92,700 lifetime.
- Aberdeen Lions \$78,200 lifetime.
- Kamloops Senior Citizens Housing Society \$60,000 to start an endowment fund.
- Longtime TRU supporter Stella Black was honoured with a TRU Foundation Lifetime Dedication Award for her involvement of 34 years back to 1981.

#### FALL ALUMNI AND DONOR OUTREACH

Every fall we hire and train 14 students to connect with our alumni and donors by telephone and thank them for their past support. These students tell our alumni and donors what is new on campus and in the program they graduated from. They also tell them about mentorship opportunities and benefits and services available to alumni.



Students gain business experience while carrying out the annual outreach campaign.

#### STUDENTS FIRST

**Student success** is our primary drive. We want to ensure that our students have the support they need to succeed in their personal, academic and career endeavours. To this end, we are raising funds for more scholarships, bursaries and awards for students in every faculty and department. Our goal is to increase endowments for student assistance from \$16M to \$20M by 2020.



OUR GOAL IS TO INCREASE ENDOWMENTS FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE FROM \$16M TO \$20M BY 2020.



At the November 2015 awards ceremony, 602 students received \$729,000 to offset the cost of achieving their educational goals.

#### LEAVING A LEGACY

#### **Reginald Harold Broadbear Bursary**

Harold Reginald Broadbear passed away in 2013 and bestowed significant funds for a bursary related to the medical field. It was left to Lynda Pitura, his niece/executor to direct the funds to the institution of her choice and help establish criteria for the selection of the recipient. Lynda and family chose the TRU Foundation.

The bursary is awarded to a student enrolled in a diploma or degree program that leads to a career in the medical field, with preference to students in Nursing or Respiratory Therapy.



Jessica Mainville receives a \$10,000 Broadbear bursary from Lynda and Mike Pitura at the 2015 awards ceremony.

The 2015 recipient was Jessica Mainville, a single parent of two wonderful children who was bridging from a Licensed Practical Nurse working at Royal Inland Hospital to a Registered Nurse through TRU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Jessica says that receiving the Reginald Harold Broadbear Bursary had a profound impact on her life. It gave her hope, a sense of accomplishment, and enabled her to do many things. Jessica says it was a great honor to meet Lynda and Mike Pitura and thanks Reginald Harold Broadbear for this life changing opportunity.

#### INCREASING ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY

One of TRU's strategic priorities is to support entrepreneurial collaboration and social enterprise that mutually benefit the university and the communities we serve.



Scotiabank recently donated \$150,000 towards financial awards for domestic, international and aboriginal students who are enrolled in entrepreneurial courses in the School of Business and Economics. Nine annual awards will be given out for five years, ranging in value from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

Representatives from Scotiabank and Scotia Wealth Management present President Alan Shaver with a cheque for \$150,000.



Dr. Ken Lepin presents his Prize of Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Communication to MBA student Kenneth Glass.

Kamloops businessman Ken Lepin's lifetime giving to TRU is now over \$2.5 million, making him the single most generous private donor in Kamloops history.

He has established awards in Nursing, Science, Trades, Animal Health Technology, Arts, Education, Culinary Arts, Law and Tourism Management. He also awards for excellence in research, entrepreneurship and communication.

Lepin has founded a \$500,000 Research Endowment to support awards for students participating in research at TRU. This fund is TRU's first major endowment to support student research and will acknowledge, celebrate and support the university's growing research portfolio.

This gift will help complete the Wells Gray Science Centre, buy much needed equipment for the Nursing Simulation Lab, and creates a President's Initiative Fund to support future special projects.



Costco presents the School of Business and Economics with \$51,000 to support a business student.



Toni Corrigan presents the Foundation's Karen Gamracy with a cheque for \$147,000 which represents Cascade's total contribution since 2004. To date, Cascade (formerly Lake City Casino) has helped 22 students reach their education goals.



#### HEALTH AND WELL BEING

TRU recognizes and promotes the relationship between learning and health, leisure and well-being. We support students in an environment that fosters personal growth and achievement.

# WILLIAMS LAKE AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

The Williams Lake and District Credit Union has pledged \$100,000 over the next 10 years to assist in the operation of the Health Centre at Thompson Rivers University – Williams Lake Campus.

Other generous donors who have provided assistance to the Community Health Centre include: the Robert L. Conconi Foundation, Schickworks Signs and Stitches and the Interior Health Authority. The Williams Lake & District Community Health Centre is the only university health centre to be led by a nurse practitioner. As there are no walk-in clinics in Williams Lake, the Health Centre at TRU is the only alternative to the emergency room.

The centre is also a great benefit to the School of Nursing in Williams Lake by providing a place for students to complete their clinical practice and learn about day-to-day operations of a health clinic.



Health Centre Nurse Practitioner Sandi Lapachelle checks Ronda McCreight's blood pressure at the Williams Lake and District Credit Union Community Health Centre.

# **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**

Thompson Rivers University supports research excellence through our Office of Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies. One of TRU's priorities is the development and mobilization of scholarship, research, training, teaching innovation, professional practice and creative capacity.

# CENTRE FOR ECOSYSTEM RECLAMATION

Creating a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Industrial Research Chair supports the development of industry-based solutions to environmental problems, and puts TRU one step closer to the creation of a Centre for Ecosystem Reclamation—a first of its kind in Canada.

New Gold, operator of the New Afton copper and gold mine west of Kamloops, recently pledged \$200,000 toward the creation of the Centre. This is the third large grant TRU has received toward the project. In late 2015, Genome BC pledged \$250,000 and the Real Estate Foundation of BC granted a further \$150,000.

#### The Centre will focus on:

1. multidisciplinary research that links together botanists, zoologists, geographers, geologists, mathematicians, and economists

- 2. a combination of laboratory/greenhouse-based investigations, controlled field manipulations, and natural field monitoring programs
- 3. distinct threatened wetland and grassland ecosystems
- 4. an integrated, in-depth understanding of ecological patterns and processes to generate the most efficient database for conservation and restoration strategies.

Reclamation solutions will be developed in consultation with local Aboriginal communities, incorporating their interests and using native plant species to restore traditional land use.



Graduate student Paul Antonelli is doing reclamation research at the historic Ajax-Afton tailings site. "We're looking at ways of incorporating organic amendments to the tailings to encourage the growth of a diversity of plants."



Dr. Lauchlan Fraser, professor and candidate for the NSERC Industrial Chair, has expertise is in grassland and wetland ecosystems, with a focus on ecosystem reclamation, biodiversity, range management, climate change, and food web theory.

## SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY

Sustainable Industry is at the heart of Thompson Rivers University's identity. TRU has maintained a commitment to the innovation, evolution and research that defines a modern university, but has never forgotten its roots. As Cariboo College, UCC, and now TRU, this institution was built on a passion for harnessing and empowering student success, collaborating with and responding to industry, and making our communities, and the world at large, better.

# INVESTING IN TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

We have embraced and grown our School of Trades and Technology, offering programming and research collaboration possibilities with various faculties including business and science.

The Foundation was also involved in securing \$513,602 of Provincial Government funding this past fiscal year for new trades equipment, the Aboriginal Women in Trades program and the Driver Training program plus funding for Women in Trades Training from the Industry Training Authority.



Ministers Lake and Stone represent the Province of British Columbia at a trades funding announcement.



#### SULKOWSKIS SUPPORT STUDENTS

The TRU Foundation is grateful for a recent \$100,000 endowment from Carl and Leslie Sulkowski which provides financial assistance annually to trades students who require tools or equipment for their program. The endowment also provides financial support for students in other programs.

The Sulkowskis believe that the foundation of any community is found within the trades and that the need for skilled tradespersons will only increase as baby boomers retire.

Carl and Leslie have a firm and passionate belief in post secondary education. As TRU is based in their community, giving to the university was a natural choice for them. As Carl says, "what better way to give back to the community that supported our success than to help others achieve their own goals?"

Carl and Leslie have been involved in the insurance industry since the mid-1980s and they feel extremely fortunate to have owned a successful brokerage in Kamloops for 14 years. During that time they were able to grow and diversify with the support of their respected clients, employees and community.

TRU has also grown quite a bit since the Sulkowskis moved here in 2001. They are impressed with its progress, including efforts taken through design of buildings and finding ways to encourage environmental sustainability on campus and in the community. They also appreciate TRU's recognition and connection to the aboriginal community.

They continue to reside in Kamloops with their son Derek. The Sulkowski family enjoys the wonderful live theatre Kamloops has to offer, plus the beautiful surrounding area for the skiing, biking, golfing and water sports.



# FACULTY OF LAW

Studying law at TRU is an exciting opportunity to blaze a trail at one of Canada's newest law schools. One particular challenge, however, is that tuition fees are the third highest in Canada as a result of an absence of government tuition subsidies. Scholarships, awards, prizes and bursaries are game-changers for talented students who face genuine financial obstacles, and student assistance has a profound impact in helping these young scholars achieve their goal of earning a law degree.

Ken Lepin has established an annual award for a top full-time domestic student graduating with the TRU Juris Doctor. The selection takes into account: academic achievements, research accomplishments, leadership activities and active involvement in the university and/or general community.

#### WEYTK!

TRU provides more than 25,000 students with access to excellence. Alongside a student body that is 11 percent Aboriginal, we host more than 2,500 international students from approximately 80 countries who enrich our campus culturally and academically.

In collaboration with local Aboriginal groups TRU has been developing programs that build capacity in governance, administration, trades, law, early childhood education and human services. The Foundation is seeking funding to create student bursaries and to support programming and research.



Aboriginal mentors and Elders are an important part of the Cplul'kw'ten Community to connect with new students in their transition into TRU. Elder Estella Patrick-Moller chats with students at "Cplul'kw'ten", the Gathering Place.

# ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

Thompson Rivers University has more than 170 student athletes competing on eight teams in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) including basketball, volleyball, soccer, swimming and cross-country. Additionally, TRU lends support to the varsity club programs of men's baseball as well as the TRU Cheer Team.

The annual September breakfast raises awareness about WolfPack varsity teams and the important role Athletics plays in creating a vibrant campus spirit along with an ambassadorial role throughout North America.

Being a competitive student athlete while attending classes to earn a university degree is challenging. Student athletes are required to maintain a rigorous practice and game schedule which includes significant travel, all while maintaining a full-time course load. Athletes therefore have little time for part-time jobs and depend on scholarship and bursary funding to offset the cost of tuition.



#### BACK THE PACK SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Our goal is to ultimately fund approximately 44 student athletic awards of \$4,500 each through signature fundraising events – Golf and the WolfPack Scholarship Breakfast. All funds will be directed to support student athletes in the form of bursaries and scholarships. We are also reaching out to our local business community to grow support of this initiative and TRU student athletes.



# 2015/16 DONORS

Thank you to these donors who have made contributions this past fiscal year (April 1,2015 - March 31, 2016).

#### BENEFACTORS \$500,000+

Government of BC

#### PACESETTERS \$100,000+

BMO Financial Group Scotiabank Carl & Leslie Sulkowski Ron & Rae Fawcett

#### CHAMPIONS \$50,000+

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#### PARTNERS \$10,000+

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Zoetis



#### LEGACY SOCIETY DONORS

Thank you to these generous donors who have made a planned gift to future generations of students at TRU.

Ed & Dianne Barker Richard & Fearon Blair Fiona Chan Claude & Dale Dansey Lorraine Drdul Robbie & Calla Dunn Laurence Garvie Harry and Jeanne Harker, III Dr. Ken Lepin Anthony Muzzillo & Evelina Coschizza Dr. Lloyd and Rae Nixon Pat & Evelyn O'Brien Jennifer Parkyn Patricia Petley Dr. Thomas George Walton John Weller

# TRU LEGACY SOCIETY

Legacy Awards are important for long-term planning with regard to the sustainability of student awards. We are pleased to announce the new TRU Legacy Society which recognizes donors who have chosen to support the university by including the TRU Foundation as a beneficiary of a bequest, life insurance, trust or any other deferred gift. The Legacy Society allows us to show our appreciation for these generous gifts during a donor's lifetime.

#### The Legacy Society recognition program is designed to:

- thank donors now for a gift that will be received at a later date
- acknowledge donors who have made planned gifts
- promote and encourage others to make planned and deferred gifts
- engage our legacy donors in special events

#### **Membership Benefits:**

- Recognition on the new Legacy Society donor wall located at the Campus Activity Centre
- Publication of member's name in the list of donors on the TRU Foundation website
- Invitation to the annual meeting of the Legacy Society
- A recognition certificate signed by the President

The TRU Foundation holds an annual Estate Planning Seminar for local professionals and individuals to share information about philanthropy and gift planning along with the tax benefits of Legacy Awards.

If you have made a deferred gift to TRU, we would like to recognize you while you are living! Please contact Karen Gamracy, Director Advancement at **250-371-5715** or **kgamracy@tru.ca** to be included in the Legacy Society or to find out more information Legacy giving.

#### NEW TOOL TO CALCULATE TAX BENEFITS ON TRU.CA/FOUNDATION

We are excited to introduce a new, easy to use, interactive tool on the Foundation website that shows how powerful your donation can be. It's called **Best Ways to Give** and it enables you to immediately see the tax credit available for your donation.

This new tool will show you how you can actually reduce your tax on various assets – real estate (non-principal residence), stocks, mutual funds or RRSPs/RRIFs - through a donation now or later through your estate. You might be surprised to learn that the best way to give is with an appreciated asset. *Best Ways to Give* shows you how gifts of this type can be structured.

In the privacy of your own home, have some fun and find your most tax efficient donation to the TRU Foundation. Please contact Karen Gamracy, Director, Advancement at **250.371.5715** or **kgamracy@tru.ca** to answer any questions.

Please be reminded that it is always good practice to speak to your accountant, financial advisor, or lawyer to validate your decision to make any large tax efficient donation.



Foundation

#### tru.ca/**trulyunited**



United Way Thompson Nicola Cariboo unitedwaytnc.ca







#### EMPLOYEES GIVING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITY

TRUly United is a precedent-setting campaign in which the TRU Foundation and the United Way of Thompson Nicola Cariboo amalgamated their respective 2015 TRU fundraising campaigns. The two organizations previously held separate campaigns targeting the same audience at TRU.

Hundreds of faculty and staff mobilized to give to deserving students and the community by way of one payroll deduction. Funds were matched by respected local philanthropists – The Kelson Group. Total funds raised in 2015 were \$189,714.

# \$189,714 RAISED IN 2015



TRU staff, Debbie Blackwell and Brenda Smith show their enthusiasm for raising funds.



TRU employees visit United Way-funded community agencies.

# VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

We can't feature all our volunteers on this page yet we give a big THANK YOU for your support!



Thompson Rivers University founded the SportChek Kamloops Marathon in 2012. It is a Boston Qualifier which has grown to 600 competitors from around the world: Spain, UK, China, Alaska, Texas and many from our close neighbour, Alberta. Proceeds from the marathon support Wolfpack atheletics.

Charlie Bruce, Race Director



Stella Black received the TRU Foundation Lifetime Dedication Award. Stella has been volunteering for the Foundation and Cariboo College, UCC and TRU for 34 years: 1981-1991 on the Board of Governors, 1991-2012 on the Foundation Board and has been the chair of the campaign breakfast committee since 2009. Stella was bestowed a Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, in 2003. Thank you Stella for your years of dedication. Stella Black with her award

The TRU Foundation Gala is a signature event with many loyal patrons attending annually for several years. Formal dress, gourmet meals and eclectic entertainment bring together more than 300 community leaders for an evening of fun and benevolence. Gala is one of the biggest fundraising events of the year for the Foundation.



The Annual Foundation Golf Classic features a full course of keen golfers willing to put their energy into fundraising and comraderie. Our golf tournament raises approximately \$50,000 annually. Janice Yeung and Rien Okawa

#### TRU GRIT ENTRANCE AWARDS

TRU Grit is a group of local community members in Williams Lake committed to supporting post-secondary education in the Cariboo. Each year they hold a gala, with all proceeds going towards financial awards for students entering TRU Williams Lake.







900 McGill Road | Kamloops, BC V2C 0C8 | 250.828.5264 | tru.ca/foundation