

## Aboriginal Partnerships and Initiatives

Thompson Rivers University has an extensive record of collaborative activity with First Nations organizations in its region. Examples of these collaborative activities include:

- ⇒ Through *The Gathering Place*, (TRU's on-campus Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Meeting Place opened in 2003 following receipt of the Spence Report) the First Nations Co-ordinator liaises directly with the Interior Indian Friendship Centre, the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, and the Kamloops Four Directions Storefront (Secondary) School.
- ⇒ TRU is working with the Secwepemc Cultural Education Society (SCES) on the development of an Aboriginal Studies Degree Programme and a Building Systems Maintenance Worker Programme.
- ⇒ In partnership with the Kamloops Indian Band (KIB) and the Corporación Nacional De Desarrollo Indígena, TRU delivered tourism and English language training to Chilean indigenous peoples participants who travelled to Kamloops for training.
- ⇒ TRU continues the affiliation agreement with NVIT that has been in place since 1998 and which sees the joint offering of TRU's Bachelor of Social Work at the NVIT campus in Merritt.
- ⇒ The Faculty of Science is offering a First Nations Small Water System Operations course that has been approved as appropriate training by the Environmental Operators Certification Program for the education requirement when applying to write the Small Water Systems Certification Exam. The coursework ladders into TRU's Water Treatment Technology Program.
- ⇒ TRU's Advanced Technology Centre has been working with First Nation communities in the Thompson, Nicola and Cariboo since 1999. The Centre has conducted, developed, managed and has delivered over \$300,000 worth of projects to these communities in such areas as environmental and natural resource management, forest product extraction and processing, tourism development, manufacturing process development, and economic development support.
- ⇒ The Williams Lake Campus has developed close ties with the Alexis Creek Band, Anahim Band, Canim Lake Band, Canoe Creek Band, Cariboo-Chilcotin Metis Association, Desniqui Service Society, Esketemc First Nation, Soda Creek Band, Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, Stone Band, and the Williams Lake Indian Band to bring training and education programmes to band members both on- and off-reserve.
- ⇒ The Williams Lake Campus also works closely with the Cariboo-Chilcotin Aboriginal Training and Education Consortium (CCATEC) to deliver education and training to the 15 bands and Aboriginal communities in the Williams Lake area.
- ⇒ In cooperation with local bands, the Williams Lake Campus has offered an Early Childhood Education Transition Programme.
- ⇒ Working with the George Manuel Institute (Chase, BC) and the Neskonlith Indian Band to develop a curriculum for the Secwepemc language, stories, songs, dances, landmarks, and place names.
- ⇒ Developing a partnership with the Clleqmeltn (Chief Atahm School) in Chase to integrate teaching programmes in Aboriginal language and Aboriginal teaching preparation.
- ⇒ Assisting the Cariboo Child Care Society, which is a member of the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, to provide high quality on-campus day-care for the children of Aboriginal students.
- ⇒ Joint development and implementation of an Aboriginal Tourism Certificate Programme in cooperation with the BC Aboriginal Tourism Association, the Native Education Centre, the Kamloops Indian Band and the Skeetchestn Indian Band.
- ⇒ The Kamloops Indian Band and TRU's Trades and Technology Division are developing an Appliance Repair Programme.
- ⇒ The First Nations Student Association has offices and a dedicated lounge in the Independent Centre, adjacent to the Campus Activity Centre on the Kamloops Campus.

- ⇒ Every year TRU's First Nations Student Association mounts a 'First Nations Awareness Week' at the Kamloops Campus. This event provides an opportunity for students, faculty and community members to learn about and experience first hand First Nations culture and history. Events include: arts and crafts exhibitions, dance demonstrations, static displays featuring Aboriginal culture and history, and a luncheon honouring regional Elders.
- ⇒ TRU works with the Aboriginal Teacher Education Consortium and the First Nations Education Steering Committee to provide improved delivery of pre-service teacher education programmes to aboriginal students.
- ⇒ In cooperation with the Neskonlith, Adams Lake, and Little Shuswap Bands delivered the Secretarial-Receptionist Program, a 15 credit program focused on the development of core Office Administration competencies, in Chase BC.
- ⇒ Currently, the University Preparation Department is delivering UPrep courses on reserve at Redstone, ChuChua, Alexis Creek, and Canim Lake.
- ⇒ The TRU Weekend University is a joint initiative of the University of Northern British Columbia, TRU Williams Lake Campus, and the Cariboo Tribal Council to provide accredited post-secondary courses. The Weekend University offers free tuition for members of the 15 First Nations bands in the Cariboo Chilcotin. Courses are offered on a part-time basis (alternate weekends) to allow the students to work or raise their families. In a typical semester, UNBC and TRU each offer and deliver one post-secondary academic course.
- ⇒ TRU Open Learning operates four First Nations Learning Centres in partnership with: Gitksan Wet'Suwet'En Education Society, Hazelton; Heiltsuk College, Bella Bella; Ittatsoo Learning Centre, Ucluelet; and the Ted Williams Memorial Learning Centre, Burns Lake.