

# April 2021

## TRU Office of Indigenous Education



Map courtesy of gov.bc.ca-college regions, 2020

### Indigenous Nations in TRU Service Area

TRU Kamloops Campus is on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory & TRU Williams Lake Campus is on T'exelc (Williams Lake Indian Band) territory within Secwépemc'ulucw. Our region includes the Stat'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, Tsilhqot'in, Dakelh and Syilx.

### TRU Statistics

Total number of students at TRU including Open Learning: 30,000 students  
 2021 number of Indigenous students (primarily First Nations & Métis): Kamloops 7.5%, Williams Lake 22.1% & Open Learning 5%

**TRU Chancellor: Dr. Nathan Matthew** (three-year term) volunteer role. The TRU chancellor presides over convocation ceremonies and are members of the university's board of governors and senate. <https://www.tru.ca/about/governance/chancellor.html>

### **President and Vice Chancellor: Dr Brett Fairbairn**

The President and Vice-Chancellor is the chief executive officer, responsible to the Board of Governors and Senate for the supervision of TRU's administrative and academic work. Paul Michel, Special Advisor to the President on Indigenous Matters reports to TRU President. Annual Reports: <https://www.tru.ca/president/reports.html>

### **Provost and Vice-President Academic and Research Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen**

The Provost and VP Academic and Research provides leadership for TRU's academic operations, including teaching and learning, research, and students.

- Faculty of Arts (FoA)
- Faculty of Adventure, Culinary, Arts, Tourism (FoACT)
- School of Business & Economics (SoBE)
- Faculty of Education & Social Work (EDSW)
- Faculty of Law
- School of Nursing (SoN)
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Student Development (FSD)
- University Library
- Trades & Technology
- Open Learning (OL)
- TRU World (International Partnerships)
- Office of Indigenous Education

### **Office of Indigenous Education (Administration)**

The Office of Indigenous Education reports to the Provost VP Academic & Research. We are broad-based and work with all of the faculties, departments, divisions specifically on Indigenization efforts such as incorporating UNDRIP and the TRC 94 Calls to Action into all levels of the university. We assist with Indigenizing curriculum, research projects, and research. We administer the Ministry of Advanced Education Skills & Training Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP) program. We connect TRU with Indigenous (First Nations/Metis/Inuit) communities and also provide guidance on protocols, and referrals for elders & knowledge keepers. We support all Indigenous TRU employees on campus with communication and events and host a number of on-campus events with our TRU partners.

### **TRU Elders (Kamloops Campus)**

Mike Arnouse (Sexqeltqin)

Doreen Kenoras (Sexqeltqin)

Sandi Hendri (Metis)

Theresa MacIsaac (Metis)

Joanne Brown (Cheslatta/Dakelh)

Leona (Doe) Thomas (TteS)

Diana Jules (Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc)

Joanne Gottfriedson (TteS)

## Indigenous Contacts at TRU

### Office of Indigenous Education (Administration)

General Inquiries	Reception	ined@tru.ca	
Tina Matthew	Executive Director	tmatthew@tru.ca	250-319-7377
Brad Bostock	Director of Development	bbostock@tru.ca	250-319-6385
Karie Russell	ASP Supervisor	krussell@tru.ca	
Cultural Coordinator	Cultural events	culturalcoordinator@tru.ca	
Ryan Christopher Transitions Coordinator	SD 27 Williams Lake SD 58 Merritt SD 73 Kamloops SD 74 Gold Trail SD 83 Salmon Arm	transitionscoordinator@tru.ca	

### Indigenous Student Development (Current Students)

General Inquiries	Reception	indigenous@tru.ca	250-371-5854
Vernie Clement	Supervisor	vclement@tru.ca	250-371-5972
Matty Chillihitzia	Mentor & Community Coordinator	mchillihitzia@tru.ca	
*Ashley McLellan	Learning Strategist	amaclellan@tru.ca	
Jason Blair	Learning Strategist	Jblair@tru.ca	
Ashley Broadfoot	Indigenous Counsellor	abroadfoot@tru.ca	250-318-6351

### Future Students Recruitment

Lex Edwards	Qelmúcw Student Recruiter	futureindigenous@tru.ca	250-852-7639
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### Indigenous Co-ops/Internships (Current Students and Alumni)

Robbi Davey	Indigenous Experiential Learning Coordinator	rdavey@tru.ca	250-819-4899
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### Trades Training in Indigenous Communities

Willi Fortier	Indigenous Relations Lead	wfortier@tru.ca	
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### Finance (Kamloops Campus)

Samantha Henderson	Accounts Receivable Clerk	accountsreceivable@tru.ca	250-371-5636
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## Williams Lake Campus

Bryan Daly	Associate Dean, Williams Lake	<a href="mailto:bdaly@tru.ca">bdaly@tru.ca</a>	250-392-8191
Reta Langlands Sulphur	Manager, Williams Lake Enrolment Services & Student Support	<a href="mailto:rlanglands@tru.ca">rlanglands@tru.ca</a>	250-392-8002
Kristen Johnny	Coordinator of Indigenous Student Services	<a href="mailto:kjohnny@tru.ca">kjohnny@tru.ca</a>	250-392-8009
Nic Suapa	Learning Commons & Student Support Coordinator	<a href="mailto:nsuapa@tru.ca">nsuapa@tru.ca</a>	250-392-8179
Pat Biblow	Manager, Williams Lake Administration & Operations	<a href="mailto:pbiblow@tru.ca">pbiblow@tru.ca</a>	250-392-8021

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **TRU Indigenous community meetings: last Monday of the month 2:00-3:00pm**
- Indigenous Community Survey (May 2021)
- TRU & Tk'emlups te Secwepemc Partnership Agreement signed April 2021
- Coyote Project funding for Indigenization now under INED base funding!
- Secwepemc Cultural Advisor (Garry Gottfriedson) with Education & Social Work
- Qelmucw Affairs Committee- (meet once a month) reports to Senate  
<https://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/fnaac.html>
- New wolves sculpture on campus <https://inside.tru.ca/2020/12/07/meet-the-wolves-of-university-drive/>
- SD73 loaning TRU traditional carved cottonwood canoes
- Review Indigenous language offering at TRU (Secwépemc, Stat'imc, Nlaka'pamux)
- TRU Undergraduate Student Survey winners (\$100 Gift Certificates): Kaine Comin, Victoria Russell, Tayana Therrien, Shadyn Alphonse, Kaylee Billyboy

## Updates at Thompson Rivers University

### TRU COVID-19 Response

- Updates: <https://www.tru.ca/covid-19/updates.html>
- For the most up-to-date information on COVID19 and TRU please visit:  
<https://www.tru.ca/covid-19.html> See "Student" page

## Fall 2020 Update

- Fall 2021 (Sept-Dec) TRU is expected to go back to face to face classes
- Office of Indigenous Education has moved to Old Library (OLARA) with All My Relations, Research and School of Business

## Mental Health Supports:

- TRU Counselling <https://www.tru.ca/current/wellness/counselling/about.html>
- FNHA Mental Health Supports: <https://www.fnha.ca/benefits/mental-health>
- Mental Health Providers: <https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-First-Nations-Health-Benefits-Mental-Health-Provider-List.pdf>

## Financial Assistance

- TRU Student Financial Assistance <https://www.tru.ca/indigenous/current-students/funding.html>
- Emergency Student financial assistance information (TRU/Province/Federal) <https://www.tru.ca/awards/emergency-funding.html>
- For TRU Awards & Bursaries, Federal & Provincial grants and loan programs, money management and applications support Contact (WL & Kamloops):  
TRU.CA/AWARDS [finaid@tru.ca](mailto:finaid@tru.ca) T. 250-828-5024 (general office)  
and/or directly [seagle@tru.ca](mailto:seagle@tru.ca) 250-828-5096 Sherryl Eagle

## General Information

- TRU University Preparation Programs: <https://www.tru.ca/indigenous/current-students/uprep.html>
- Tk'emlups te Secwepemc hosted STSS 0600 (BC Adult Dogwood equivalency), Math/Eng. Upgrading
- New course Indigenous Tourism: Colonial Power, Politics and Practices (Dr. Courtney Mason)
- 2021 Indigenous Grad online (June)
- Indigenous Summer Science Camp online (June)
- TRU Applied Sustainable Ranching Certificate (May 2021) spots still available! <https://inside.tru.ca/releases/tru-joins-unique-indigenous-agriculture-partnership/>  
Contact Gillian Watt, TRU Applied Sustainable Ranching Program Co-ordinator  
Williams Lake campus [gwatt@tru.ca](mailto:gwatt@tru.ca) | 250-319-2367

## TRU Indigenous Trades Training

### Willi Fortier RSE

Relations Lead - Indigenous Peoples in Trades Training  
School of Trades and Technology  
[wfortier@tru.ca](mailto:wfortier@tru.ca) C 250.851.1132

### Heather Hamilton

Associate Director, Community Education and Workforce Training  
[hhamilton@tru.ca](mailto:hhamilton@tru.ca) (250) 377-1680

## Ten Construction Trades programs scheduled over the next year, providing training to more than 100 participants in multiple Indigenous communities

Our contract with the ITA, to deliver Indigenous People in Trades Training Initiatives, has been extended to August 2023. The funding allows TRU (Kamloops and Williams Lake) to deliver exploratory and foundation trades programs in community as well as and provide tuition, books, tools, and daycare for students to pursue a foundation program at Williams Lake or Kamloops

Course	Location	Status
Carpentry Level 2 (10 weeks)	Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Kamloops	Complete
Construction Craft Worker (8 weeks) – Level 1	Neskonlith Indian Band Salmon Arm	Currently underway
Trades Sampler (12 weeks)	Ulkatcho First Nation Anahim Lake	Currently underway
Construction Craft Worker – (8 weeks) – Level 1	Metis Nation of BC Kamloops BC	May 25 – July 16, 2021
Construction Craft Worker (8 weeks) – Level 1	Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Nemaiah Valley	Planned for early Summer 2021
Trades Sampler (12 weeks)	Canim Lake Band	Planned for early Fall 2021
Trades Sampler (12 weeks) and Building Maintenance Worker	Cariboo Chilcotin Aboriginal Training Employment Centre	Planned for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022
Road Builders and Heavy Construction Foundation program	Neskonlith First Nation Chase BC	Planned for Spring 2022
Trades Sampler	Lillooet BC	Spring 2022
Carpentry Foundation program	Ulkatcho First Nation	Planned for Spring 2022
Indigenous Youth Build Canada		

## Indigenous Community Based Training Initiatives

Course	Location	Status
Health Care Assistant (34 weeks) in collaboration with Faculty of Nursing and the TRU Lillooet Regional Centre (blended F2F OL -cohort based model)	Lil'wat Nation	Currently underway

## Community Based Training Initiatives

Construction and Welding programs offered in 100 Mile House, Clearwater, Barriere and Williams Lake

Course	Location	Status
Welding Foundation (8 months) using the TRU mobile training unit. Funded through a partnership with Conestoga and the Federal Government	100 Mile House	Currently underway
Women in Construction Trades Training	Simpcw First Nation Barriere	May 25 – August 13
Welding Foundation – Funded through a partnership with Conestoga and the Federal Government	Williams Lake Campus	Commences July 2021
Construction Craft Worker (8 weeks) – Level 1 (Equity Seeking Groups)	Williams Lake	Planned for late summer 2021
Construction Craft Worker (8 weeks) – Level 1 (Equity Seeking Groups)	Kamloops	Planned for early spring 2022

## Youth Initiatives

Course	Location	Status
Welding Foundation Program	Hope High School	Fall 2021 (MTU)
Welding Foundation Program	Clearwater High School	Winter 2022 (MTU)
Trade Up Program Development in partnership with the ITA		

## TRU STUDENT FEATURE STORY HUNTER LAMPREAU



My name is Hunter Thomas Lampreau, I am a member of the Secwepemc nation. I am Simpcw on my father's side and Neskonlith on my mother's side. I am currently attending Thompson Rivers University working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Geography & Environmental Studies.

Growing up, I spent time on the traditional territories of both sides of my family, and the ecologically diverse ancestral territory of my parents' communities has given me the ability to connect to a vast landscape that has seen various impacts to wildlife & their habitat. Connecting to these territories as an avid hunter, fisher, forager, and geology nerd has nurtured my passion to conserve either untouched, or heavily impacted ecosystems and their inhabitants. That is part of what led me to an interest in environmental studies. This personal motivation is notably charged by something beyond my passion for wildlife and habitat, as a Secwepemc person, I believe we are all entrusted to be responsible stewards over our respective divisions of the

territory, as the generations before me have taken their turn in caring for our territories. In order to effectively and efficiently fulfil my turn of responsibility, I understand the necessity of building my understanding of western sciences in stewardship alongside my Indigenous worldview.

I currently work as the Wildlife Strategic Coordinator for Qwelmintec Secwepemc, a Government to Government agreement that is seeking to establish a shared pathway for natural resource management between 7 Secwepemc communities and 4 British Columbia Ministries. Alongside this, I am one of the Indigenous co-chair's for the First Nations - B.C. Wildlife & Habitat Conservation Forum. The forum seeks to enable Indigenous governing bodies to participate in wildlife and habitat stewardship across the Province by working on strategic direction setting documents. This combined exposure has helped me to rapidly build experience while Walking on Two Legs to best respect and work with both the western world & Indigenous world in wildlife conservation work.

I elected to attend university because I understood the opportunity to pursue a post-secondary education as something my grandparents never had the chance to do. As attendees and survivors of the residential school system, mostly the Kamloops Residential School located just across the river, the exposure my family had to western education was both tainted and



suppressive. Rather than letting this experience continue to dismantle my plausibility of succeeding as a youth, I was fortunate to find strength and support from being on my territory, or when surrounded by my family, friends and values they taught me. These support systems are critical for well-being during the University experience, and T.R.U. faculty have been able to offer both the flexibility to be on my territory, or specific support services if my family and friends were unavailable.

The most challenging part of university has been maintaining my cultural well-being. The intersection of western academia and Indigenous ways of being, knowing and viewing the world often forced me to reconsider just how much I would be able to truly contribute to my territories stewardship. This challenge has also been the best part of attending university. As I get to better understand how to break down the silos and strict requirements of western academia by connecting with faculty, I get to be a part of the paradigm shift that the next generation of Indigenous academics benefits from.

My career goals are specific to my interests and hobbies. As an Indigenous person, witnessing wildlife and their habitats mismanaged is damaging. My goal is to be a part of the passionate and educated Indigenous and non-Indigenous stewards who shift wildlife and habitat management to only be guided by the best available western sciences, and Indigenous knowledge so that the next generation of conservationists can have the same experiences I have.

These experiences all make up my personal interests and balanced lifestyle. I strive to spend as much time as possible on my territory, seeking new experiences in an area my family once freely occupied and utilized to thrive since time immemorial.