

Partnership Agreement  
BETWEEN  
Thompson Rivers University (TRU)  
AND  
T'k'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS)

WHEREAS

- A.** T'k'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) is a progressive Secwépemc community committed to attaining self-sufficiency and independence through blending ancestral ways of knowing with contemporary education, health, and economic development;
- B.** Thompson Rivers University has a vision that includes:  
*Community-minded with a global conscience, we boldly redefine the university as a place of belonging — Kw'seltknéws (we are all related and interconnected with nature, each other, and all things) — where all people are empowered to transform themselves, their communities, and the world;*
- C.** This TteS and TRU partnership acknowledges and recognizes the 2007 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* that states:
1. ii. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
  2. i. Article 13 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral histories, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
  3. iii. Article 14 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
  4. vi. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining, health, housing and other economic and social programmes through their own institutions;
- D.** This TteS and TRU partnership also acknowledges that:
1. First Nations have an inherent and Treaty right to education, including post-secondary education as part of a lifelong learning process.

2. Strong, effective and inclusive First Nations-led local, regional and Treaty-based post-secondary education models provide a fundamental opportunity for building relationships and advancing reconciliation between the Crown and First Nations, as expressed in the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- E. TRU acknowledges the main campus is situated on ancestral Tkemlupsemcúlecw and acknowledges that the Tkemlúpsmc have an inherent right to education, including post-secondary education and will actively collaborate with TteS in developing and implementing mutually beneficial and innovative programs for the Tkemlúpsmc;
  - F. TRU is a comprehensive university striving for excellence in teaching, researching and service to the community. TRU will work collaboratively with TteS in developing high quality, flexible, technical and successful trades and training programs that meet industry standards and incorporate Tkemlúpsmc ways of knowing, values and philosophy;
  - G. TRU and TteS are committed to increasing enrollment, retention, and graduation rates for TteS students.
  - H. TRU is committed to being the University of Choice for the Secwépemc and Indigenous People and that these students experience success and a place of belonging;
  - I. TRU and TteS have commitment towards the philosophy of Kw̓seltnéws: we are all related – all living things, the environment, ecosystem, collegiality, friendship, teamwork, taking care of each other, the land, and sustainability;
  - J. TRU acknowledges that Tkemlúpsmc have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own language, in a manner appropriate to their Secwépemc methods of teaching and learning. TRU will recognize that TteS speaks their own distinct variation of Secwepemctsin and will honour the Tkemlúpsmc variation in all Secwepemctsin on the main campus signage, communications, programs, courses, and events. TRU rely on the TteS Language and Culture Department in regards to requests for appropriate translation approvals or translation services;
  - K. TRU is committed to increasing the recruitment and retention of Secwépemc and Indigenous students, faculty, staff, and administration;
  - L. TRU is committed to align university academic programs and strategic priorities with Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls for Action (2015);

**M.** TRU and TteS understand the importance of building a mutually respectful relationship and agree to the following:

1. Ensure that both TRU and TteS Chief & Council are properly represented at all mutually agreed upon events at TRU and TteS. In addition, TRU will continue to provide a place of prominence on campus for the TteS flag and TteS will display the TRU flag at mutually agreed upon events at TteS;
2. TRU will continue to develop and implement services that are designed to enhance TteS students' post-secondary experience philosophically, politically, linguistically, socially and academically – with exceptional consideration for Secwépemc world view and belief system;
3. TRU will increase awards for Tkemlúps te Secwépemc students;
4. TRU will use reasonable efforts to acknowledge and respect Secwépemc ancestral ways and protocols in ceremonies at TRU;
5. TRU and TteS will work collaboratively to develop and deliver academic programs, open learning, training, accredited courses, certificate, diplomas and degrees of interest to the members of TteS;
6. TRU will provide a seat for a TteS representative on the Qelmúcw Affairs Committee that is a Subcommittee of Senate and this TteS representative will be appointed by Band Council Resolution from the Tkemlúps te Secwépemc Chief and Council;
7. TRU and TteS will designate representatives who will meet from time to time to discuss ongoing and new collaborative initiatives; and
8. TRU will respect, and honour ancestral Secwépemc research ethics, Indigenous intellectual property, Secwépemc Language, and Secwépemc research protocols.
9. Thompson Rivers University will continue to notify and work in partnership with Tkemlúps te Secwépemc upon any discovery of Secwépemc archaeological artifacts or cultural modifiers found on TRU land development and excavations.

This partnership Agreement can be amended with the agreement of both parties and may be terminated by either party on one year's written notice to the other.

Our respective organizations pledge to collaborate, to the extent allowed by law and available resources, in a broad range of academic endeavours as outlined in subsequent supplemental agreements.

In order to review and assess the achievements resulting from this Partnership Agreement, and to discuss the development of further cooperation, the parties shall meet at least twice a year; once at Thompson Rivers University and once at Tkemlúps te Secwépemc. The parties are confident that such friendly cooperation will promote harmonious relations and advance Tkemlúps te Secwépemc and Thompson Rivers University partnerships.



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Kúkwpí7 - Tkemlúps te Secwépemc  
Rosanne Casimir



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President – Thompson Rivers  
University Brett Fairbairn

Date: April 5, 2021