

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) serves as an educational institution and as an environmentally responsible, planned space. TRU is committed to inclusive consultative processes with First Nations and stakeholders in all levels of planning and development across the campus.

The Community Engagement Policy is a framework to guide TRU administration and planners to ensure internal and external communities are consulted and engaged in major development, projects and plans. The policy supports the Thompson Rivers University 2015 Master Plan, the vision and framework for future development and growth, as well as the 2014 Strategic Priorities Plan.

DEFINITIONS

- 1. First Nations:** Aboriginal peoples in Canada who identify themselves by the nation to which they belong. Thompson Rivers University is situated on traditional and unceded Secwepemc territory. The Secwepemc First Nations population is approximately 7,000. Thompson Rivers University has an indigenous student population of approximately 2,000.
- 2. Stakeholder:** A person, group or organization that has interest or concern in an organization.
- 3. Community Engagement:** The process of working collaboratively with community groups to address issues that impact the well-being of those groups.

REGULATIONS

- 1. Purpose**
 - a. To facilitate and support the University's development with respect to community engagement and to ensure a strong base of support for the future vision of the campus.
 - b. To outline the principles through which the objectives -community engagement, collaboration and outreach- can be achieved.
 - c. To outline the roles and responsibilities for implementing the engagement strategy.

2. Principles

a. First Nations Engagement as a Core Commitment

- i. The Secwepemc Nation maintain a spiritual and practical relationship to the land, water, air, animals and plants in their territory. It is the University's priority to consult with the Secwepemc people before and during planning processes.
- ii. Thompson Rivers University prioritizes First Nations approval before any final implementations.
- iii. The University is grounded in the principles of reconciliation.

b. Community Engagement as a Core Commitment

- i. The University will invite communities to collaborate in the planning process.
- ii. The University supports inclusive participation therein no prejudice to participants.
- iii. The University's procurement processes will follow outreach practices, establishing an engagement culture for the University.

c. Stakeholders

- i. Local government including the municipal City of Kamloops, local MLAs, and the provincial government of British Columbia.
- ii. Educational organizations
- iii. Local businesses
- iv. Non-government organizations and non-profit organizations
- v. Community. The community includes and is not limited to the
 - Aboriginal community
 - Thompson Rivers University community
 - Kamloops community

d. Engagement Strategy

- i. All Stakeholders are invited to participate in planning processes through Town Halls, public surveys, community meetings, visioning sessions, and social media outreach.
- ii. The University will use technology for digital engagement. Social media is fundamental to engagement and will be utilized.
- iii. The University commits to a process of continual improvement and best practices.

e. Analysis and Planning

- i. The University will administer an engagement plan that sets targets and indicators.
- ii. The University will measure for engagement and report progress.

3. Responsibilities for Implementation

- a. All Senior Administration within Thompson Rivers University is responsible for reviewing the Community Engagement Policy and for approving actions, schedules, and funding for its implementation during early planning stages. Planning documents will be published on the TRU public website.
- b. All Senior Administration within Thompson Rivers University is responsible for coordination, advocacy, and communication of the engagement principles, objectives, and strategies on campus. The President of the University will support the Community Engagement Policy within the local community and broader community, government departments and other organizations and universities.
- c. All Senior Administration is responsible for implementation and analysis, including regulatory reporting.