

2019 Annual Report

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union



Table of Contents

Board of Directors.....3

January 2019 to May 2019.....4

May 2019 to December 20194

Campaigns5

Federal Election.....5

Candidate Information5

Voter Access6

End the Ban.....6

Grants Not Loans.....7

Breaking Bread7

Provincial Budget Consultation.....8

Federal Budget Submission9

Municipal Engagement Opportunities10

Equity11

Campus Equity11

Exploring The Gender Spectrum Outreach Day.....11

Indian Horse Film Screening.....11

Ban Conversion Therapy in BC Campaign12

Women of TRU Project.....13

8th Annual TRUSU Pride Parade.....14

Greetings Around The World Website Posting14

Orange Shirt Day.....14

TRANSform TRU Project.....14

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response15

Community Equity Work.....15

Kamloops Women's March.....15

Kamloops Immigrant Services' Diversity Walk.....15

Third Annual Kamloops Pride.....16

Take Back The Night Walk.....16

Men's Health Initiative's PRICK! STI Testing Program.....16

Amnesty International's Urgent Action Network.....16

Amnesty International's Write for Rights Campaign.....17

Kamloops Equity Forum.....17

University Affairs18

Student Caucus and Student Representation.....18

Student Caucus Membership18

Orientation, Support, and Engagement19

Student Budget Consultation20

Participation and Results.....20

Action on Students' Priorities.....20

The Future of the Consultation21

University Issues22

Affordable Course Materials.....22

Campus Parking and Transportation22

Study Space.....23

International Students.....24

Services25

Students' Union Building25

Increased Building Hours25

The Students' Union Building goes Wireless!.....26

Common Grounds26

Common Grounds Review Implementation.....26

Increased Common Grounds Hours26

Extended Health and Dental Plan27

UPASS28

Food Bank28

Endowments and Bursaries29

TRUSU Grants Program.....29

Entertainment30

Back-to-School BBQ30

Clubs Day30

Outdoor Movie Night and Food Truck Festival31

Common Voices Lecture Series32

Awards of Excellence Social32

Last Class Bash33

Holiday Fest33

Club Activities34

Board of Directors and Members at Large

Each year members of the Students' Union elect 19 members to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors appoints an additional fifteen members to serve as Members-at-Large on the Campaigns Committee, the Equity Committee, the University Affairs Committee, the Services Committee, and the Entertainment Committee. These individuals serve terms from May 1st to April 30th and work throughout the year to plan and implement a series of activities, events, and campaigns for students.

The following pages of this report include an overview of the activities of these groups from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. We would like to thank all of those members who sacrificed their time and energy to serve in 2019. Please see the following page for a list of all of the positions of elected representatives in 2019.

2018/2019



2019/2020



January 2019 to May 2019

President	Tatiana Gilbert
Vice President Equity.....	Sierra Rae
Vice President External	Cole Hickson
Vice President Internal.....	Simranjit Singh
Vice President Services.....	Samantha Baker
Aboriginal Representative	James-Dean Aleck
Graduate Representative.....	Fatimah Abdullahi
LGBTQ+ Representative	Beckham Evans
International Representative	Giriraj Ojha
Visible Minorities Representative.....	Brandon Hayashi
Women's Representative.....	Elycia Finch
Campaigns Committee Representative.....	Aria Kornas
Campaigns Committee Representative.....	Nicholas Warner
Entertainment Committee Representative	Christian Andrews
Entertainment Committee Representative	Arman Gill
Services Committee Representative	Swagatam Majumder
Services Committee Representative	Abu Taj
University Affairs Committee Representative.....	Mattias Eriksson
University Affairs Committee Representative.....	Mico Meige-Moffat

May 2019 to December 2019

President	Sierra Rae
Vice President Equity.....	Brandon Hayashi
Vice President External	Kole Lawrence
Vice President Internal.....	Mackenzie Byers
Vice President Services.....	Sajeesh Soman
Indigenous Representative	Lesley Campbell
Graduate Representative.....	Danielle Olumide
LGBTQ+ Representative	Dallas Odsen
International Representative	Raj Soni
Visible Minorities Representative.....	Elma Masiha
Women's Representative.....	Mackenzie Francoeur
Campaigns Committee Representative.....	Manuela Ceballos
Campaigns Committee Representative.....	Ali Mulji
Entertainment Committee Representative	Kunwar Rajdeep
Entertainment Committee Representative	Paras Luthra
Services Committee Representative	Dipak Parmar
Services Committee Representative	Jessica Guthier
University Affairs Committee Representative.....	Shanta Tomar
University Affairs Committee Representative.....	Aria Appleton



Campaigns

In 2019, the Union continued to deliver on and expand the scope of its community and government-facing campaigns work. This included continuing to engage residents in Kamloops in a dialogue about the problematic areas of provincial government funding to TRU, working with all levels of government to recommend budget priorities that meet students' needs, and work in other areas as well. Through these campaign actions, the Union continued to engage students and community members on important political issues facing our university and the broader community, as well as working to influence decision-makers to make policy changes that will improve the daily lived experience of students at TRU.

Federal Election

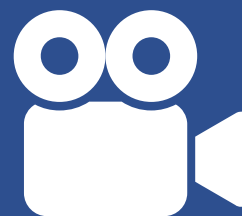
The 2019 federal election was a significant opportunity for the Union to engage with members about issues that matter to them. The Union had two objectives for the federal election: to provide resources to help members understand the local candidates and their parties and to provide accessible voting opportunities to members.

Candidate Information

To provide members with information on local candidates, the Union advanced a few strategies. First, to provide members with candidate information that could be accessed at any time, the Union produced video interviews of every local candidate, asking about their backgrounds, priorities, ideas to improve access to affordable housing, their vision for an environmentally sustainable future, and other issues. Every candidate was asked the same questions so that members could compare their responses to help them decide on their vote. The Union posted these video interviews on a dedicated federal election page. This page also included biographies and contact information for each candidate, as well as voting information on eligibility and ID requirements.

To provide members with an opportunity to ask local candidates their own questions about issues, the Union also hosted a Pizza and Politics event on October 3, 2019. At this event, every local candidate was on campus for two hours and members were invited to drop by and talk to the candidates and have a free slice of pizza. Throughout the

2019 FEDERAL ELECTION



Video Interviews of Local Candidates



Meet and Greet with Candidates



On-Campus Polling Station



two-hour event, approximately 300 members attended. The Union also provided voting information materials to attendees.

To further engage members in the federal election, the Union also hosted an election night viewing event at The Den. It was held from 5:30 pm to 9:30pm on October 21 and approximately 100 members attended. Over 60 members also participated in a contest to guess the number of seats each party would win.

Voter Access

The Union worked together with Elections Canada to promote on-campus voting from October 5-9, 2019. The polling station was open on October 5 from 9 am-6 pm, October 6 from 12pm-4pm, and October 7-9 from 9:00am to 9:30pm. During these days, any eligible voter could register to vote and/or cast their ballot in any voting district across the country, provided they presented appropriate ID. This option proved particularly useful for students who moved to Kamloops from other electoral districts as they could vote in their home district without the need to request a mail-in ballot. Over 850 students, faculty, and staff cast ballots at the on-campus poll over the five days, with approximately 350 ballots cast in other electoral districts.

To promote the on-campus voting opportunity, the Union conducted over 45 classroom talks and three days of outreach in partnership with Elections Canada. The Union designed materials to give

away during outreach that included campus voting opportunities and eligibility.

End the Ban

Currently, Canada has a 3-month blood deferral policy for men who have sex with men (MSM). This means that, regardless of their relationship status and safe-sex practices, many gay men will not be permitted to donate blood for most of their adult lives.

To pressure the federal government to address this issue, the Union engaged in community education work and provided tools for community members to send their own emails to the federal Health Minister asking for policy change. To engage with the community, the Union set up tables at Overlander's Day, the Kamloops Pride Parade, three Farmers' Markets, and on-campus. In total, over 880 emails were sent from community members to the Health Minister.

The Union also arranged a meeting with the local MP, Cathy McLeod, on September 5, 2019. At this meeting, the Union explained the issue to McLeod, answered questions, and shared what they had heard from community members in Kamloops. The Union committed to following up with McLeod following the 2019 federal election.

880
Emails Sent

9
Days of
Community
Outreach

1
Meeting with
our Member of
Parliament



Grants Not Loans

In addition to the provincial budget submission, the Union also engaged in direct advocacy work to encourage the provincial government to investigate the creation of a provincial grants program.

In January and February 2019, the Union made one-on-one presentations for members to better understand the attributes that make effective student financial aid. As part of this process, the Union also asked students if they would be interested in writing a letter to the Minister of Advanced Education, asking her to establish a need-based grants program for BC. In total, over 40 students sent letters to the minister regarding this issue.

In September 2019, the Union worked to inform a broader range of members about why need-based grants are the most effective form of student financial aid. To help members show their support for a grants system in BC, the Union also created a sign for members to hold and offered to have their photo taken.



40
Letters to the
Minister



335
Grants Not
Loans Photos

These photos continue to be tweeted at the Minister of Advanced Education every day and periodically released through other social media platforms.

Breaking Bread

Breaking Bread is a new project from the Union that aims to connect small groups of students with community leaders through intimate topic-based conversations. The Union started this project because the personal connections that students form, both on-campus and in the Kamloops community, are integral to finding success during school and after graduation. This project aims to help students build community, share perspectives, and foster community connections.

The Union hosted the first Breaking Bread discussion on December 11, 2019 with City Councillor Arjun Singh and six students. The theme of this discussion was *Opportunities for Climate Action at the Municipal Level*. The Union will continue to host these conversations in the new year.





Provincial Budget Consultation

On June 12, 2019, the Union presented its priorities for the 2020 provincial budget to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. Along with the presentation, the Union also produced a research brief that outlined its recommendations.

The Union's first recommendation was to eliminate the public investment in provincial RESP programs, education tax credits, and loan remission programs, and to re-invest these resources into the creation of an upfront need-based grants program. The Union made this recommendation because effective financial aid increases participation rates in the post-secondary system, helps students complete their education, and supports student transition from education into the workforce after completion. A need-based grants system is much more effective at all three of these measures primarily because it is targeted to students that demonstrate the greatest need.

The Union's second recommendation was for a full re-evaluation of the TRU funding formula to better reflect the institution's change and growth since 2005. For background, Thompson Rivers University has been underfunded by approximately \$80 million in the last five years compared to the average level of per-student funding in BC. This level of underfunding has a significant impact on both the campus and the broader community. The Union raised this issue with the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to ensure that the provincial government is aware of this issue in their upcoming budget cycle.

Provincial Budget Recommendations:



Create a
need-based
Grants
Program



Re-evaluate
TRU's
Funding
Formula



Create a
Provincial
Strategy for
International
Students

The Union's third recommendation was for the creation of a province-wide strategy for international education within BC. The number of international students in BC has increased by 61% from 2011 to 2016, representing \$4.2 billion in tax revenue in 2016 alone. Despite this rapid growth, regulation on international education recruitment is primarily left up to individual post-secondary institutions. A province-wide strategy could help provide a significantly better experience for international students in BC, while simultaneously ensuring that post-secondary institutions and communities continue to benefit from internationalization.

To support the third recommendation on the development of a provincial international education strategy, the Campaigns Committee of the Union partnered with the University Affairs Committee to start a conversation on the TRU campus about this issue. Part of this process was to develop a report on the campus experience amid growing international student enrolment, titled *Welcoming the World*. This report was also provided to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services. The Union plans to continue this work through presentations to politicians and community groups in winter 2020. For a full explanation of this project, [see the International Students section](#).

On August 7, 2019, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services released their final report with recommendations for the 2020 provincial budget. Their report included recommendations that were in line with two of the Union's recommendations for the budget.

1. Review and evaluate grant models to ensure funding is responsive and provides the most

impactful support for reducing barriers and inequities to access.

2. Review the funding formula for post-secondary institutions to address funding challenges, and barriers and inequities to access

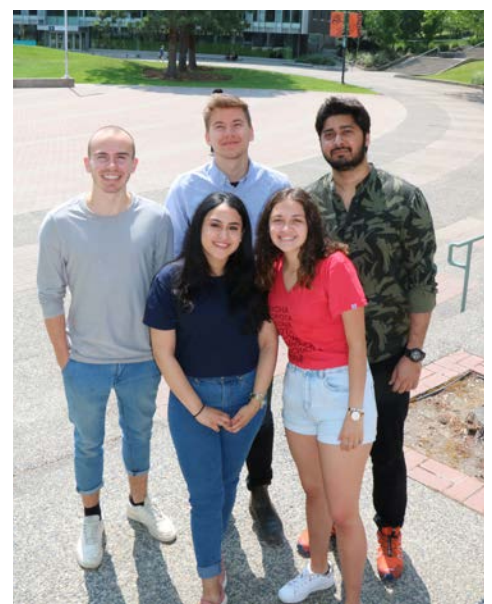
Federal Budget Submission

Each year, the federal Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) hosts a pre-budget consultation to hear from organizations across the country on their priorities for the upcoming federal budget. In July 2019, the Union made a written submission to FINA on recommended changes to federal post-secondary student assistance programs to increase their effectiveness in helping students' access, complete, and successfully transition from post-secondary education.

The Union's recommendation was to expand the Canada Student Grant Program by consolidating the Tuition Tax Credit and Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) expenditures into the grants program.

The federal RESP primarily benefits wealthier families who already save for their children's education without a matching grant from the federal government. This means that the program is a poor measure for improving outcomes since it isn't targeted at students who are facing financial barriers to post-secondary education.

The Tuition Tax Credit program is problematic because it is often transferred to a family member or used in a future year, therefore not helping students with financial difficulty. As stated in the 2016 federal budget regarding post-secondary related tax credits, "These credits





are not targeted based on income and often provide little direct support to students at the time they need it most.”

Municipal Engagement Opportunities

The City of Kamloops is increasingly engaged in proactively consulting the public about changes to policy and long-term planning for the future of specific areas of the community. As students use a wide variety of city services, and many choose to make Kamloops their long-term home after graduation, it is important to provide avenues for their voices to be heard.

On June 25, 2019, the City of Kamloops held a Secondary Suites Public Hearing to consider changes to the residential suites policy in the city. At this public hearing, the city proposed to allow secondary suites and garden suites on single-family lots in most areas of the city without the need to apply for rezoning. The Union attended this event with approximately ten students to learn more about the changes that will impact students and facilitate the opportunity for students to provide their own feedback.

On September 19, 2019, the Union worked with transit planners from the City of Kamloops to host an on-campus feedback session for students regarding their transit

experience. This included setting up maps of transit service at the main bus stops on campus and having a transit planner on-site to answer questions and receive feedback. The Union will work to host similar transit feedback sessions in future semesters as well.

On November 21, 2019, the City of Kamloops held a Downtown Plan Consultation for the public to provide feedback on the final draft of the proposed Downtown Plan before it is considered by the City Council. This plan will provide a framework to guide planning and land use management for the downtown area over the next twenty years. This includes providing direction for green spaces, community facilities, residential growth, transportation, major projects, and other areas. The Union brought a delegation of 10 students to attend the consultation and provide feedback to the city.

On November 27, 2019, the City of Kamloops hosted its annual public budget consultation. This event was open to the public and hosted in order to give attendees an overview of major upcoming budgetary items while also giving citizens the opportunity to ask questions and provide input on priorities. The Union organized a delegation of students to attend the event because decisions made at the municipal level have significant impacts on students' lives in areas such as economic development, transit, public infrastructure, waste disposal, safety, and others.





Equity

In 2019, the Union continued raising awareness of the systemic oppression of marginalized groups in society and challenging that oppression where possible.

In 2019, the Union hosted a series of events and campaigns and worked with TRU to address campus issues with a focus on Indigenous people, women, visible minorities/racialized people, LGBTQ+ people, poor/working-class people, and other marginalized groups in society.

Campus Equity

The Union continued working on several ongoing equity issues and raised new areas of equity by engaging thousands of TRU students, faculty, and staff in 2019. The Union was privileged to be able to work collaboratively with many folks from campus equity groups to support them and provide a platform for marginalized voices to be heard.

The Union was happy to see the campus community engaged in higher quality and more numerous equity works in 2019 and was proud to continue to be the most inclusive intersectional equity group at TRU.

Exploring The Gender Spectrum Outreach Day

On January 22, 2019, the Union hosted an outreach table in Old Main to raise awareness about modern conceptions of gender and the diversity of identities that exist beyond just 'men' and 'women'.

The Union engaged over 150 campus community members in playing an LGBTQ+ flag matching game, having a discussion about gender identity, answering questions about some lesser-known identities, and distributing a takeaway material with additional information and resources to continue the conversation.



Indian Horse Film Screening

On February 13, 2019, the Union hosted a film screening of *Indian Horse* in the Students' Union Building to raise awareness about what happened in residential schools and the ongoing trauma that survivors relive even after leaving these institutions. The film begins in the late 1950's Ontario, where eight-year-old Saul Indian Horse is torn from his Ojibwe family and committed to



one of the notorious Catholic Church's Indian Residential Schools. In this oppressive environment, Saul is barred from speaking his language or embracing his Indigenous heritage while he witnesses horrendous abuse at the hands of people entrusted with his care.

Despite this, Saul finds salvation in the unlikelyst of places and favourite winter pastime — hockey. Fascinated by the game, he secretly teaches himself to play, igniting his newfound passion. His talent leads him away from the misery of the school, eventually leading him to the Pros. But the ghosts of Saul's past are always present and threaten to derail his promising career and future. Forced

to confront his painful past, Saul draws on the spirit of his ancestors and the understanding of his friends to begin the process of healing.

Ban Conversion Therapy in BC Campaign

From July to October 2019, the Union campaigned to ask the provincial government to protect LGBTQ+ children by banning conversion therapy for minors and preventing public money from being spent on the practice in BC. Conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological or spiritual interventions.

The Canadian Psychological Association and most medical bodies condemn these practices, confirming they don't work and are harmful to LGBTQ+ people to be subjected to, especially children. Conversion therapy is currently banned in Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, the City of Vancouver, and dozens of countries around the world. Still, there's no ban in BC – which the Union believes is wrong.

The Union attended community events like farmers' markets and the Kamloops Pride Parade, and campus events like the Back-to-School BBQ to raise awareness about this issue and encourage folks to sign a petition to the Premier, Attorney General, and Health Minister asking them to take action to ban conversion therapy in BC. The Union sent over 1,300 petitions to the government and had many meaningful conversations educating folks about the harms of conversion therapy. In 2020, the Union will continue to monitor the subject to see if the federal or provincial government will take action.



 **1300**
Signatures
Collected for
Ban Conversion Therapy

Women of TRU Project

From January – March, and November – December 2019, the Union publicized the Women of TRU project to raise awareness about gender issues and barriers in academia or on campus, and to provide a space for women to share their stories and experiences with gender inequity.

Over these weeks, the Union created social media profiles of 12 diverse women students, faculty, and staff at TRU who are confronting and overcoming gender barriers and discrimination. On March 8, 2019, the Union hosted a discussion with the women who participated in the first phase of the project and others interested in gender equity, to create a list of some of the common themes from their profiles to pass on to TRU senior administration for consideration.

Overall, the common themes were: improving mentorship opportunities for women on campus, continuing to address sexual violence, including marginalized women more effectively (Indigenous, racialized, Queer, disabled, etc.), improving campus child and elder care, improving promotion/tenure/ pay equity for women faculty and staff, and improving respect for women in male-dominated areas.

The Union reached over 50,000 people throughout the project and started many conversations amongst campus community members about gender barriers at TRU.

Alicia Ashcroft

"As a woman, you often live in a state of fear, or hypervigilance, being forever questioned, but not always believed.... We can push back against this messaging through acts of resistance; by speaking openly about our #metoo moments"



Patience Nyoka

"It can be scary, especially for a woman of colour. You are often fighting two battles at once – how the world will react and what people think of you....We can achieve so much more when we are working together."



Lesley Campbell

"As someone of mixed ancestry, I come from two different walks of life and am trying to find out where I fit in the middle of those walks. My path is continuously shifting; every time I learn something new about myself and where I come from, I find myself in a new spot."



Dr. Mónica Sánchez-Flores

"For me, a large part of equity work is framing the issues properly so that people will want to work towards addressing and understanding the disadvantages and their own privilege. It is a 'labour of love.' It has to come from a place of shared humanity and fierce love; not anger."





8th Annual TRUSU Pride Parade

On September 18, 2019, the Union hosted the 8th Annual TRUSU Pride Parade outside Old Main to celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community and publicly claim TRU as a safe space to study, work, and live no matter one's sexual orientation or gender identity.

The event opened with welcoming remarks from the Union, the TRU President, the TRU Faculty Association President, and the President of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 4879, and concluded with a colourful pride parade encircling campus. Approximately 200 students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in the event.

Greetings Around The World Website Posting

On September 3, 2019, the Union released a website post entitled *Greetings Around The World* to highlight the diversity of the campus community and the importance of asking for consent before touching/kissing/hugging someone when meeting them. The post highlighted respectful greeting customs from India, Bangladesh, Thailand, China,

Japan, Arabic countries, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Latin America, the Secwepemc Indigenous community, and Canada. The Union was pleased to positively contribute to the back-to-school season with an educational equity message.

Orange Shirt Day

On September 30, 2019, the Union participated in TRU's annual Orange Shirt Day event that raises awareness of and recognizes the harm done by the residential school system. The event was an important opportunity for residential school survivors, local government members, Indigenous youth, students, faculty, and staff to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations to come.

The Union believes that it is important to unite and support Indigenous equity work like Orange Shirt Day and looks forward to participating in the 2020 event.



TRANSform TRU Project

Throughout 2019, the Union continued its work to advocate for better respect and inclusion for Trans and gender-diverse folks from TRU. The Union worked with TRU Facilities to expand the availability of Trans/gender-inclusive washrooms across campus with new facilities opening in the House of Learning, Old Main, the Campus Activity Centre, and Cplul'kw'ten (the Gathering Place).

In 2020, the Union will continue to work with Facilities to expand Trans-inclusive washrooms to other buildings with a goal of at least one Trans-inclusive washroom on each floor of every building at TRU.

The Union also worked with the Faculty of Student Development to improve the inclusion of Trans/gender-diverse identities in TRU's student data systems like *Banner*. TRU contracted TransFocus Consulting to conduct an audit of gender diversity on campus starting in July and continuing until 2020. This audit includes a series of interviews of university administrators, followed by surveys of both students and employees to collect information regarding current gender diversity

inclusion efforts, what gaps are present, and how to address challenges and barriers, especially those faced by Trans and gender-diverse community.

The Union will continue participating in this audit and working with TRU to implement the final recommendations from this process in 2020.

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response

Throughout 2019, the Union has continued to work with students, faculty, and staff to grow TRU's capacity to prevent and respond to incidences of sexual violence. The Union's previous work shaped the creation of TRU's Sexual Violence Policy, which was implemented in 2017, but additional efforts are needed to implement and maintain the procedures and values represented in the policy.

The Union worked in 2019 to support TRU joining the National Association of Student Personnel Administrator's *Culture of Respect* program. This is an ambitious two-year program that unites colleges and universities across the United States, Canada, and Mexico who are dedicated to ending campus sexual violence and guides them through a rigorous process of self-assessment and targeted organizational change. TRU is the first Canadian institution to enter the program and tap into the collective knowledge of other equity professionals to improve their processes regarding survivor support, clear policies, multi-tiered education, public disclosure of statistics, schoolwide mobilization, and ongoing self-assessment. The Union has been providing input into the implementation of this program on campus and has advocated for more resources to be directed to

the Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response office. The Union will continue to collaborate with other campus community members to implement the *Culture of Respect* program and ensure that students are fairly represented in decision-making around campus' rights and responsibilities concerning the prevention of and response to sexual violence.

Community Equity Work

In order to combat the systemic marginalization of different groups in society, it's critical to engage and partner with the greater community. In 2019, the Union continued on several successful partnerships and forged new relationships with community organizations to expand its reach.

Kamloops Women's March

On January 19, 2019, the Union joined several hundred community members in a march around downtown Kamloops to demonstrate public support for gender equality and for international feminist movements. The Kamloops event has grown out of the global movement sparked by the Women's March in Washington, held initially in January 2016.

Kamloops Immigrant Services' Diversity Walk

On March 21, 2019, the Union joined dozens of community members in participating in Kamloops Immigrant Services' annual "Walk to Embrace Cultural Diversity" to demonstrate appreciation and support for the diverse cultures that exist within Kamloops.





Third Annual Kamloops Pride

On August 25, 2019, the Union sponsored and participated in the third annual Kamloops Pride Parade in downtown Kamloops hosted by Kamloops Pride. The parade celebrated the LGBTQ+ community and claimed Kamloops as a safe and welcoming place for Queer folks. The Union also attended a booth before and after the parade to raise awareness of the Ban Conversion Therapy in BC campaign and collect petitions for the provincial government.

Take Back The Night Walk

On September 12, 2019, the Union joined dozens of community members participating in the Kamloops Sexual Assault and Counselling Centre's annual "Take Back The Night" walk downtown to raise awareness about violence against women and to demonstrate our commitment to working towards full equity for women in Kamloops. The Union will continue to support feminist equity work in the community by participating in next year's Take Back the Night walk.

Men's Health Initiative's PRICK! STI Testing Program

Throughout 2019, the Union continued its support for community health agencies by promoting the Men's Health Initiative's "PRICK!" STI testing program. PRICK! is a private and confidential full STI testing event for all 'guys who like guys.' This includes, but is not limited to: bisexual, cis, curious, gay, guy, male, non-binary, queer, questioning, straight, trans, two-spirit and all other 'guys who like guys.'

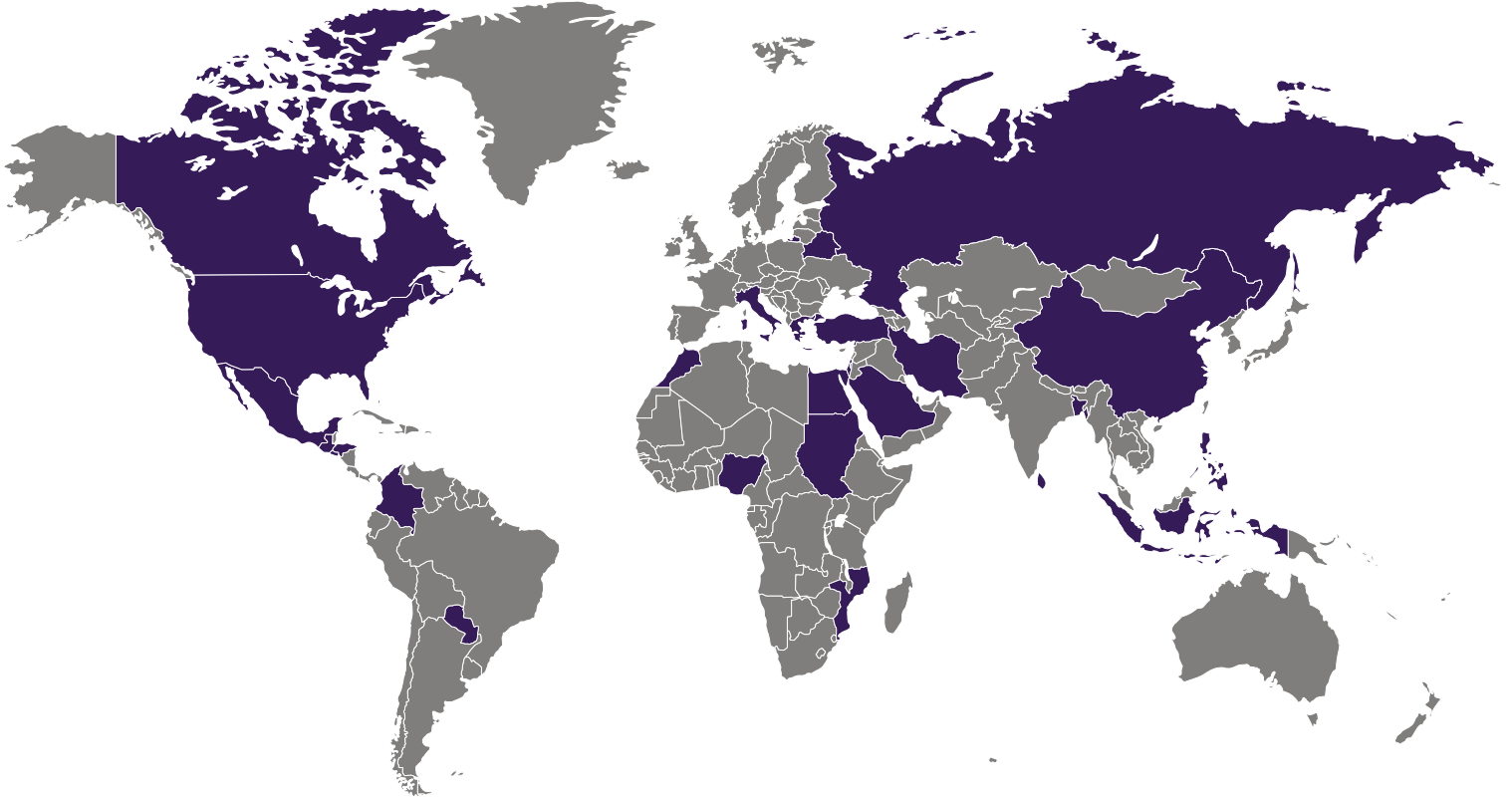
PRICK! is a project that was created from the LGBTQ+ community, expressing the need for testing options with a safe and supportive environment. Currently, there are no other STI testing options in the BC interior that cater specifically to the needs and concerns of men who have sex with men (MSM). The Union promoted and advertised upcoming PRICK! testing events on campus to better serve the sexual health needs of members.

Amnesty International's Urgent Action Network

The Union continued to participate in Amnesty International's Urgent Action network in 2019 to combat global injustice and inequity and advance our vision of a world where everyone is treated fairly, regardless of one's identity, appearance, or beliefs. Amnesty International is a non-partisan human rights organization that conducts research and generates action to prevent and end human rights abuses and demands justice for those whose rights have been violated.

The Urgent Action Network is a group of 165,000+ volunteers in 55 countries who expose and pressure human rights violators to change their illegal and unethical behaviours, including torture, extrajudicial executions, genocide, depriving equity groups of food/water/other necessities, and more. After Amnesty verifies that these types of illegal activities are happening, they distribute an urgent action notice to the network and ask folks to send letters, faxes, emails, and other messages to the government or organization committing these crimes to inform them that the world is watching and pressure them to stop their illegal activity immediately.

Amnesty Urgent Action Letters Locations



The Union reviews each urgent action notice from Amnesty, discusses the alleged rights violation, and decides if they want to participate. After approving participation, a letter is drafted fulfilling the requirements of the request, which is signed by the Union's President and Vice President Equity and is quickly delivered by email, fax, or mail to the intended recipient. In 2019, the

Union participated in 23 urgent actions and delivered letters to various governments around the world requesting they investigate allegations of serious human rights abuses and take action against any illegal or unethical behaviour.

240 letters to the governments of Nigeria, Philippines, South Sudan, Belarus, Canada, China, Egypt, Greece, Iran, and Mexico to request they intervene in cases of abuse against youth human rights activists.

Amnesty International's Write for Rights Campaign

On December 10, 2019, the Union hosted an event in the Students' Union Building to participate in Amnesty International's "Write for Rights" campaign to call attention to human rights violations around the world by contacting government officials. "Write for Rights" is a long-standing initiative of Amnesty International and has a proven track record of focusing public attention on government malfeasance and inaction to protect human rights.

Dozens of campus community members were assisted in writing

Kamloops Equity Forum

On August 20 and November 27, 2019, the Union hosted meetings with community equity organizations to help end the sense of isolation that Kamloops equity organizations feel with each other. Organizations shared their ongoing equity projects and invited others to participate in upcoming equity events, campaigns, and other projects in which they're involved. The Union invited folks to participate in its initiatives and learned about several community initiatives in which we can participate. The Union plans to host the last meeting for the year of the Kamloops Equity Forum in February.



240

Write for Rights
Letters Sent



University Affairs

In 2019, the Union continued to advance students' interests in the university through student representation in university governance, student input in university budgeting and planning, and action on key issues including: course materials, parking and transportation, study space, and internationalization.

Student Caucus and Student Representation

The Student Caucus had continued success in its ninth year. Efforts continued to build on a brand strategy that provides a clear, consistent, and meaningful presentation of the Student Caucus to its audiences. The Student Caucus further improved the recruitment and nomination of a growing range of student representative positions across the university while enhancing its support and engagement.

Student Caucus Membership

Student Caucus membership was strengthened through recruitment, application, selection, and onboarding strategies, and measurable indicators of success improved across the board.

A recruitment drive began in August with new, targeted outreach to student leaders in Clubs and other campus programs. In September, broader awareness and interest was built through outreach at key events and digital and campus promotions. The contact information of three hundred and sixty (360) interested students was collected. Applications were invited from these students, and one hundred and fifty-one (151) applications were received within three weeks. All applicants scheduled a mandatory interview, and one hundred and nine (109) interviews were conducted. This process identified the most engaged candidates and facilitated more informed nominations. It further established Student Caucus membership as a responsibility and privilege and created a stronger connection for onboarding.

Student Caucus Recruitment

 151

Student Applications

 109

Candidate Interviews

 75

Student Representatives

In addition to more effective recruitment, the Student Caucus membership also expanded. The Union appointed a representative each to the new Digital Strategy Advisory Committee, Research Technology Advisory Committee, and Food Services Advisory Committee.

Student Caucus membership in 2019 consisted of seventy-five (75) representatives across seventy-seven positions (77), and the Union filled ninety-nine percent (99%) of student representative positions to which it nominates or appoints.

Orientation, Support, and Engagement

Student representatives in 2019 were well-prepared and supported and engaged in more activity.

The Student Caucus orientation for the 2019/20 term was held at the end of September 2019. Participants gained an understanding of the Student Caucus, university governance, and current issues. They gained meeting participation skills, engaged in an issues brainstorm, and built a sense of camaraderie. Ongoing support was provided through regular contact on Basecamp, an online team-working platform, and through staff assistance.

The Student Caucus continued to provide consistent engagement through monthly meetings. Presentations were organized to seek feedback on issues and projects such as study space improvements, the development of the Envision TRU strategic plan, campus safety and security initiatives, and the Campus Strategic Sustainability Plan update. Discussions were held on university committee updates as well as on key topics such as policy revisions, university accreditation, and issues brainstorming. Overall, meetings have been



**Representatives
Receiving Recognition**



**Representatives
Receiving Recognition
with Distinction**

successful, with an average attendance of thirty (30) members in 2019 overall, and more since the start of the 2019/20 term.

Student Caucus members were also invited to participate in university activities. This included the Union's Annual General Meeting; a Strategic Enrolment Management Plan consultation; a meeting with the federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Labour; a Kamloops Transit Plan open house; a Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accreditation site visit; and a TRU Economic Impact Study presentation. Student Caucus members further observed meetings of the TRU Senate and Board of Governors. Together there were ninety-five (95) instances of participation across ten (10) activities.

Beginning in the 2019/20 term, the Student Caucus introduced workshops to build members' skills further. The first of these was held in November 2019 and provided an interactive exploration of Robert's Rules of Order as well as a practical guide to raising an issue in a governance body. Thirteen (13) members took advantage of this skill-building opportunity.

Finally, Certificates of Recognition were awarded to encourage and reward this engagement. The first round of certificates were awarded in April 2019, with nine (9) members earning Recognition and another fourteen (14) earning Recognition with Distinction. In the 2019/20 term, an even greater number of Student Caucus members are on track to earn Certificates.

In 2020, the Student Caucus will continue to ensure members are supported in their representative responsibilities and engaged in a range of meaningful activities beyond their committees.

Student Budget Consultation

The Student Budget Consultation, established in partnership with TRU in 2014, provides a meaningful role for students in university budgeting and planning. It further provides critical direction from the student body in selecting university affairs issues to address.

Participation and Results

The Student Budget Consultation in 2019 continued to provide a robust opportunity for students to have their opinions accurately understood and reported to the university.

Students' budget priorities were

31

Town Hall Participants

306

Survey Responses

identified through a comprehensive

survey. The survey, held in January 2019, achieved a reliable sample with three hundred and six (306) respondents completing the extensive questionnaire in-full, and the profile of the respondents accurately resembled the demographics of the student population. The survey continued to allow students to identify priorities through three different measures, providing for reliable and strategic selection of students' top five priorities.

A Town Hall was held on January 30, 2019, to build a detailed understanding of the priorities. A facilitator led thirty-one (31) participants in discussions that were recorded and transcribed. These discussions and open-ended survey responses were analyzed to identify themes

and formulate recommendations.

The five priorities identified in the Student Budget Consultation Report 2020/21 were: parking and transportation, food services, study space, course materials, and course offerings. The Report made twenty-five (25) recommendations to improve those priority areas. Because the priorities were recurring from previous years, the Report provided background and context for the recommendations.

The Student Budget Consultation Report 2020/21 also recognized and celebrated excellence, improvement, and responsiveness.

Areas of excellence included the campus card (student identification), the Wellness Centre, and Library services. Areas of improvement included transportation alternatives, food services, and academic advising. Finally, areas showing responsiveness to students include study space and food services. The Union offered appreciation and congratulations to all those involved in these areas.

Action on Students' Priorities

Putting the Student Budget Consultation priorities and recommendations into action is a critical aspect of making the process meaningful to participants and impactful for the student experience.

In 2019, the Union continued to ensure that students' priorities are widely understood. In September 2019, the Student Budget Consultation Report 2019/20 was submitted to senior administration and management, and in October 2019, it was



2019/2020 Student Budget Consultation Priorities



1 Parking and Transportation



2 Food Services



3 Study Space



4 Course Materials



5 Course Offerings

further distributed to all others in positions of leadership and management – one hundred and forty-three (143) individuals in total. In October 2019 it was also presented to the Budget Committee of Senate.

Beyond building understanding, securing responses has been an ongoing challenge. The speed and consistency of responses have improved in recent years, but in 2019, no formal responses were received to the most recent consultation. Fortunately, areas of greater collaboration have developed. For example, on study space, the Union has partnered with the Campus Infrastructure and Sustainability Department. On affordable course materials, the Union has partnered with the Library, the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, and Open Learning on two promising initiatives. Details can be found below under “University Issues.”

The Union is also exploring new ways to communicate the outcomes of the consultation to the membership. This began with the first of a series of videos on social media on upcoming or current actions on priorities, and more are planned for 2020.

In 2020, the Union will continue to seek formal responses to recommendations from the Student Budget Consultation Report 2020/21 prior to the budget approval in March 2020. More importantly, it will focus on ongoing and new work with willing partners to engage in collaborative and community-oriented approaches to make tangible changes on issues.

The Future of the Consultation

After five years of experience, the Union reviewed the Student Budget Consultation with TRU to identify ways it could continue to advance student participation in university planning and support continuous improvement of the student experience.

In gathering students’ input, the Union had increasing success for four years, but participation in the most recent consultation returned to initial levels. This decline, as well as direct feedback from students, suggested survey fatigue. This fatigue, in turn, was exacerbated because priorities identified in the survey have persisted for multiple years.

In having students’ priorities reflected in university plans, there has been a procedural improvement, but the character of recommendations and responses has emphasized formal accountability over collaboration, impact, and learning. This has also been exacerbated by the persistence of priorities, which relate to complex issues that often cannot be meaningfully addressed in a single budget cycle.

Based on this experience, the Union met with the Vice President Academic and the Vice President Administration and Finance in October 2019 and confirmed two changes. First, the consultation will now be held every two years rather than annually to relieve survey fatigue and provide greater opportunity for actions to be taken. Second, collaboration and impact on students’ priorities will be emphasized over formal responses. These changes will be implemented in 2020.



University Issues

In 2019, the Union continued work on longstanding student priorities identified in the Student Budget Consultation, including affordable course materials, campus parking and transportation, and study space. The Union also started new work on the growing importance of international students as part of the university and community. Importantly, this work has been guided by and realized its successes as a result of a focus on collaboration and community engagement.

Affordable Course Materials

The Union continued to address the growing crisis in the affordability of textbooks through two initiatives. The first continues to promote open educational resources (OER), which are available free of charge. The second aims to expand the availability of textbooks on reserve in the Library.

Students have prioritized course materials in the Student Budget Consultation for the last four years. From 2016 to 2018, the Union ran a successful Open Textbooks campaign that built campus understanding and support for OER and led to the creation of a TRU OER

Development Grant Program. In the process of the campaign, the Union joined a network of open education champions across campus. In 2019, the Union continued work within this network to advance affordable course materials.

To build on a growing culture and practice of open education at TRU, the Union has begun plans with partners to host the first-ever TRU Open Education Week on March 4-5, 2020. Open Education Week was “founded in 2013 by the Open Education Consortium... to raise awareness and showcase the impact of open education on teaching and learning worldwide.” (<https://www.openeducationweek.org/page/what-is-open-education-week> by the Open Education Consortium is licensed under CC by 4.0) The events will feature a series of workshops and special keynote guests, which will be preceded by an education and engagement campaign to raise the profile of open education on campus.

The Union has also been working with the Library to address the immediate challenge of unaffordable textbooks that students face while the use of OER grows. The Union has raised the idea of a comprehensive textbook reserve system since 2016, but the possibility has been limited by a lack of funding in the Library. In June 2019, however, the Union began

a partnership with the University Librarian to develop a funding request. This funding request will be submitted in January 2020.

In 2020, the Union will continue its work to provide immediate support for students facing unaffordable textbook costs through a Library reserve system and will advance a long-term vision for free, high-quality open educational resources.

Campus Parking and Transportation

The Union continued challenging work in 2019 to advance parking and transportation that meets the needs of the campus community. This work continues in two ways. First, the Union has sought to build a collaborative approach on transportation decisions. Second, the Union has called on the university administration to put this collaborative approach into action.

Students have prioritized parking in the Student Budget Consultation for the last five years. Over those five years, the Union engaged in negotiations, formal proposals, and campaigns to address their concerns, but had minimal success while straining relationships with administration and other stakeholders. The Union learned

that collaborative decision-making is necessary to address complex public issues such as parking and transportation. As a result, a Parking and Transportation Working Group (PTWG) was formed in August 2018 with representation from the Union, the TRU Faculty Association (TRUFA), and the Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 4879 (CUPE4879).

In 2019, the Union continued to work with the Group to use community engagement to build shared understanding and goals for parking and transportation. After attempts to hire an external consultant to facilitate this work were unsuccessful, the Group determined that the participation of the university administration was necessary. It invited members of the TRU Parking Appeals and Advisory Committee (PAAC) to share their perspectives and join in calling on the university to commit to community engagement.

In August 2019, a letter to administration was jointly signed by the Presidents of the Union, TRUFA, and CUPE4879 and the Chair of the PAAC. The letter highlighted the concern that the manner of changes to campus parking and transportation had eroded trust and shared vision in the community. It proposed authentic community engagement as a constructive path to facilitate campus commuting that works well for everyone within established university plans. The Union later had an opportunity to meet with the university president to discuss the issues raised in the letter. That meeting was open and constructive, and the president offered two opportunities to move forward: to support the PAAC to reflect community feedback in parking decisions better and to gather better data about campus commuting needs and behaviours.

In 2020, the Union will continue to work with its partners and the PAAC to improve community participation in transportation decision-making and will work with representatives from Marketing and Communications and the Office of Sustainability to better understand and communicate commuting needs and options.

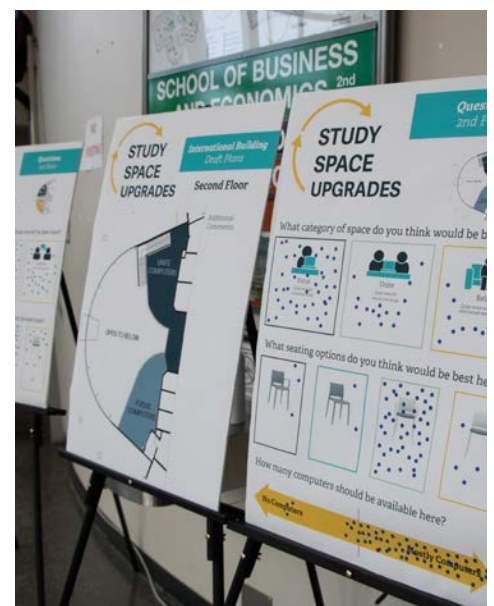
Study Space

The Union launched an exciting new partnership in 2019 to allow students and the campus community to shape improvements to study spaces.

Students have prioritized study space in the Student Budget Consultation in 2016, 2018, and 2019. In 2018, the Campus Infrastructure and Sustainability Department responded with a commitment to ensure a minimum standard of study space per student. To achieve this, it would explore options to renovate or reconfigure existing study space and underutilized classroom space as study space. These plans were further presented to the Student Caucus in January 2019 for feedback.

In 2019, the Union sought to build on this responsive approach. In June, the Union established a partnership with the Campus Infrastructure and the Marketing and Communications Departments to ensure that the campus community would be meaningfully consulted as study space renovations and developments moved forward. This would ensure the creation of more beneficial spaces as well as making the community feel connected to those spaces based on their input.

In November 2019, this partnership was launched in two parts. First, students were invited to provide input on their overall study experience on campus through an online survey. In less than two weeks, the survey had three hundred and fifteen (315)



responses. This input will help guide all study space renovations and developments across campus. Second, the campus community will be invited to help shape plans for renovations in specific buildings. The first was the International Building. This input was gathered through an online survey that received one hundred and five (105) responses as well as series of interactive booths in the International Building itself to engage users while immersed in the space in question. These in-person consultations had two hundred and fourteen (214) instances of participation. Overall, participants have been enthusiastic about the opportunity to be heard.

In December 2019, the Union compiled and analyzed both the overall and International Building feedback and reviewed it with the Campus Infrastructure Department for the purposes of creating a revised, more-detailed plan for study space in the International Building.

In 2020, the Union will continue to work with partners on study space, specifically presenting revised International Building plans for final feedback with implementation shortly after. At the same time, consultations will begin for the next building to be renovated. The Union is excited to continue this innovative, collaborative, and impactful work with the university.

International Students

The Union launched a project in 2019 to address the increasing importance of international students as part of our university community. International students have provided exciting opportunities in new perspectives and connections as well as financial and economic impact. But, as with most opportunities, welcoming international students presents new challenges as well. In order to address these challenges and maximize the benefits, the Union launched the *Welcoming the World* project.

The project served to create space for the campus community to talk openly about this important topic. Starting in January 2019, the Union hosted focus groups with international and domestic students, as well as faculty and staff, to ask them about their personal experiences with growing international student enrolment. Based on these focus groups, the Union developed a draft report to share with the campus community. This report was available publicly on the Union's website, along with a feedback form for the campus community to provide additional feedback. To encourage engagement

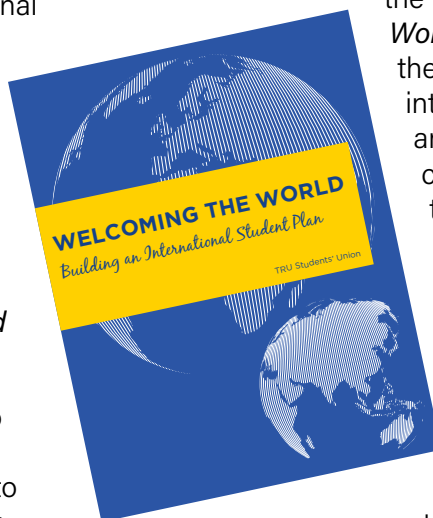
with the draft report, the Union published six videos summarizing its sections. Each video also invited viewers to contribute their thoughts on the topic through the Union's website.

In late summer 2019, the Union met with TRU World leadership regarding the project. TRU World expressed

interest in contributing to the final *Welcoming the World* document to reflect their work to support international students and the broader campus community in relation to internationalization. In October 2019, the Union also hosted an additional focus group for International Student Advisors to contribute their experiences

working with and supporting international students throughout their education at TRU.

In early 2020, the Union expects to receive an official submission from TRU World and will integrate this content, as well as additional community feedback received since the spring of 2019, in a final *Welcoming the World* report. The Union will then make presentations across the campus as well as to the broader Kamloops community to interested and/or relevant groups and decision-makers.





Services

Throughout 2019, the Union continued to deliver a consistent and comprehensive range of services, saving members' time and money, creating a community, as well as supporting and encouraging academic success.

Students' Union Building

The Students' Union Building, now in the tenth full year since the completion of its revitalization project, continues to be a very important service for the membership and campus community. The space continues to meet the needs of members, campus faculty, and staff, and the broader community, by providing space for social gatherings, club gatherings, studying, food services, and acting as the hub for members' services.

In 2019, the Union experienced a significant increase in the volume of traffic in the building, with public spaces operating at capacity and bookable rooms continuing to be well-used by campus and community

groups. Formal bookable rooms experienced 9,839 hours of use in 2019, with 3,229 bookings. Up 13% from the hours booked in 2018. Incorporating anecdotal evidence with the statistical data provided by the online booking service indicates the overall room usage in the Students' Union Building continues to meet the desired daily usage capacity.

Increased Building Hours

In the Fall of 2019, the Students' Union Building increased its hours of operations. The Students' Union Building is now open from Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 10:30 pm. Weekend hours have also been introduced; the building is now open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Increasing the building hours has yielded two benefits; the Union was able to hire more part-time student employees for both the Members' Services Desk and the Common Grounds Coffee Shop and the Students' Union Building is now open 7 days a week. The Union will continue to monitor the success of extended building operations in terms of its viability and financial impacts.





The Students' Union Building goes Wireless!

In the Summer of 2019, the Services Committee worked to remove all wires and cable connections from bookable spaces in the Students' Union Building. The Union explored various companies and options to find the best possible solution to make spaces more user-friendly for students, faculty, staff, and campus groups. In Fall 2019, all Air Tame devices were made available in every bookable space in the Students' Union Building, eliminating the need to connect any device to a cord for folks to hold meetings or use

our space to study. The Services Committee will continue to monitor and ensure all Members' Services Desk employees are trained to assist in the use of the Air Tame devices.

Common Grounds

Common Grounds remains a successful student-owned and operated food service outlet as it continued to lead the campus industry in promoting ethical business practices that meet the Union's principles. Traffic at Common Grounds continued to remain strong in 2019. In 2019, Common Grounds continued to offer an ethical product at a reasonable price as a successful business operation in the campus environment and was able to cover all of its own expenses while continuing to be a self-sustaining enterprise. In 2019, Common Grounds has proved to be a successful service offered to the campus, and the Union will continue to monitor progress its in the future.

May 2019, when the Students' Union Board of Directors turned over, the new representatives continued to implement the recommendations that came out of the report. In the summer of 2019, the Union worked to implement changes that resulted from the Common Grounds review.

The Common Grounds menu was revamped to include more variety of sandwiches, wraps, and salads with a rotating featured wrap and sandwich. Common Grounds also made changes to the ordering schedule with Rocky Mountain Catering. Ordering was increased to

3 times a week to address the issue of freshness. The Services Committee will continue this work in the Winter of 2020 by exploring community food partnerships with the intent to add more variety to Common Grounds, while ensuring that it remains a successful student-owned and operated food and beverage outlet.



Common Grounds Review Implementation

In 2018, the Union conducted a review of the Common Grounds Coffee Shop. The review consisted of a campus-wide survey that was designed to get an understanding of where folks eat on campus, how often they eat on campus, and if they visited the Common Grounds Coffee Shop, what their experience was. The review also had a focus group component that explored the meaning of variety and freshness as it relates to Common Grounds food products.

The Union finalized the Common Grounds report in winter 2019. In

Increased Common Grounds Hours

The increased hours of the Students' Union Building means that Common Grounds was able to extend its hours of operations to include the weekends. Common Grounds is now open Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm, Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. These extended hours allowed the Students' Union to hire two additional student employees to Common Grounds, making a total of 9 student employees.



Extended Health and Dental Plan

In 2019, the Union's Extended Health and Dental Plan continued to provide exceptional coverage to members. The plan continued to feature 100% drug coverage; 80% coverage on professional services, such as chiropractors or podiatrists; 100% coverage of optical exams and glasses; 80% coverage on basic dental services; accidental death and dismemberment insurance; and travel insurance. In conjunction with these comprehensive coverage options, reasonable co-payment amounts and annual benefit maximums have ensured that premiums paid by the Health and Dental Plan fee have remained sustainable. The fee is \$248 per year and is automatically applied to members who are eligible. A similar plan on the private market would cost individual members upwards of \$2,000 a year.

In 2019, the Union saw significant growth in the Health and Dental Plan with approximately 5,956 members enrolled on the plan, and an additional 153 student opt-ins, 42 single dependent opt-ins, and 131 family opt-ins.

In 2019, the Union completed the Annual Renewal of its insurance plan with Greenshield

Canada on behalf of its members in May 2019. Effective September 2019, coverage changes to the TRUSU Health and Dental Plan

6,282
people covered
by the Health
Plan

improved
wisdom tooth
extraction
coverage

improved
dental surgery
coverage

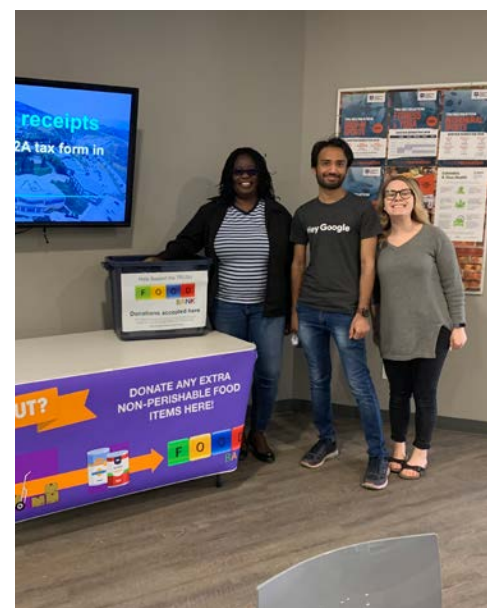
improved
eye testing
coverage

included improvements to existing coverage for fillings, wisdom teeth extractions, root canals, and eye exams. The copayment for wisdom teeth extractions was reduced from 30% to 20%, and the copayment on root canals was reduced from 50% to 30%, making necessary dental surgeries cheaper for members. Plan members also saw coverage

changes that will ensure they will have their choice of amalgam or white fillings with no associated premium or cost. In addition, coverage for eye exams increased from \$60 to \$100, ensuring members who might need glasses or contacts can get the necessary testing. Lastly, the plan added

new accidental death and dismemberment coverage to support plan members and their families in the event of an accident.

The Union will continue to have a presence on campus to promote the Health and Dental Plan, as well as a digital communications presence to ensure students have multiple sources of information about their health and dental plan. The Union will also continue to review the Health and Dental Plan's performance each year to maximize benefits for its members.





UPASS

In 2019, the UPASS continued to offer each member per-semester savings of over \$120 in monthly transit fares and \$108 in gym membership fees at the Tournament Capital Centre (TCC) including free access to the TCC Aquatic Centre. These benefits worked to reduce gas, parking, maintenance, and insurance expenses for private vehicles by providing a transportation alternative, and provided low-cost access to nearby wellness options. The Union worked with the institution to extend the tracking process to create an online system to track different

data from activated cards. This data included eligible headcounts, opt-outs, and cards encoded. This year, the Students' Union has seen a greater increase in the total number of students eligible for a UPASS and the approximate total of students with an active UPASS.

In 2019, the Union had 20,084 students eligible for a UPASS after opting out 184 students who fit the opt-out criteria. With the 441 students opting into the UPASS, the Union had an activation rate of 87% or an approximate annual total of 20,525 students with an active UPASS.

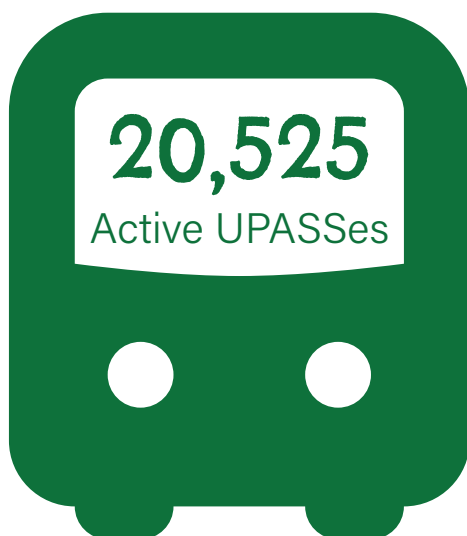
Food Bank

In 2019, The Union has continued to implement the TRUSU Food Bank through a variety of donations, collections, and other strategies to ensure the demand by students in need of food was met. In 2019, usage of the Union's Food Bank continued to remain strong.

In January 2018, the Union established a partnership with McGill Housing and TRU Residence, hosting a donation bin table at the end of the winter semester for students to donate all of their leftover,

non-perishable food items to the TRUSU Food Bank. In 2019, The Union extended this partnership to include East Village and continued the Food Donation Partnership with McGill Housing and the North Tower. In 2020, The Services Committee will reach out again to the North Tower, McGill Housing, and East Village to continue the food drive into its third year.

In fall 2019, the Union was approached by various TRU departments and facilities, including IT Services, TRU World, Wolfpack, Caribou Child Care Society, McGill Housing, North Tower, TRU Finance, and Ancillary Services, inquiring about collecting and making donations to the TRUSU Food Bank. The Union was able to collect over 15 full bins of food over the course of the fall 2019 semester, leaving the food bank storage fully-stocked at the beginning of the winter 2020 semester. The Union will continue making the Union's Food Bank's presence on campus known by raising awareness of the service and soliciting donations.



Endowments and Bursaries

In 2019, the Union continued its annual contribution of \$15,000 to the Students' Union Endowment Fund. The fund is developing each year; its capacity to provide financial aid to students is growing. In 2019, the Endowment distributed \$20,731.97 to 18 students. In 2014, the Union recognized there was a funding deficiency for students who faced unforeseen barriers while studying at Thompson Rivers University. To help members overcome these obstacles, the Union and the Office of Student Awards & Financial Support worked together to offer a TRUSU Emergency Bursary. This form of non-repayable, short-term relief for members disbursed \$9,250.00, helping 15 students in 2019. Bursary allocation for members will continue to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

\$

18 Endowment Bursaries

\$

15 Emergency Bursaries

TRUSU Grants Program

In 2019, the Union continued to administer the TRUSU Grants Program to assist students in attending conferences, hosting events, and hosting Educational Activities on campus. This program has continued to grow with each year of operation, and 2019 was no exception.

540

Students funded to attend a conference

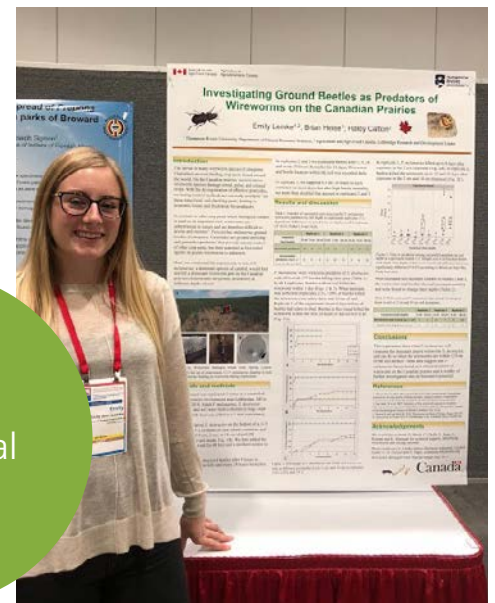
In 2019, the Board of Directors allocated \$282,466.59 to 116 conference grant applications sending 540 students to conferences from Victoria, BC to Berlin, Germany. In 2019, the Board of Directors allocated \$69,037.30 to eighty-two club events attended by more than 4,000 students, staff, faculty, and community members. The Board of Directors allocated \$69,722.71 to twenty-five Educational Activities attended by more than three thousand students, faculty, staff, and community members. Finally, the Board of Directors allocated \$22,621.24 to eight Community organizations through our Community Grants program.

82

Club events funded

25

Educational activities funded





Entertainment

The Union continued to deliver safe and high-quality events throughout 2019. These events served to develop a sense of community and enhance the Unions' engagement with its membership. Regardless of the event, the Union continues to place the safety and security of attendees as priority for all its events.

Back-to-School BBQ

The Back-to-School BBQ serves to welcome new and returning members to campus and to connect them to campus and community services. It also serves to provide students with an opportunity to participate in activities that foster social cohesion.

On September 6, 2019, the Union hosted the 32nd Annual Back-to-School BBQ in the Campus Commons. The Back-to-School BBQ had more than 150 vendors participating in the event with a diverse range of entertainment opportunities and activities for members to participate in, including over 150 interactive tables, a main

stage including 5 musical acts, and lunch provided by TRU. The event was co-hosted by the Vice President Internal and local radio personality Rich Woods. The BBQ provided more than 325 students with an opportunity to make new friends and social connections. Activities from the stage were well-received from members and vendors.

The Back-to-School BBQ remains the largest and the most anticipated event of the year, and the Union looks forward to hosting another successful Back-to-School BBQ in 2020.



Clubs Day

On September 11, 2019, the Union hosted the annual Clubs Day on the basketball court outside of Old Main. This event provides an opportunity for students to connect around shared perspectives and interests. Over 600 students and 50 groups, including clubs and local non-profit organizations, participated in the event. Clubs Day continued to provide members with an introduction to student groups on campus, and non-profit

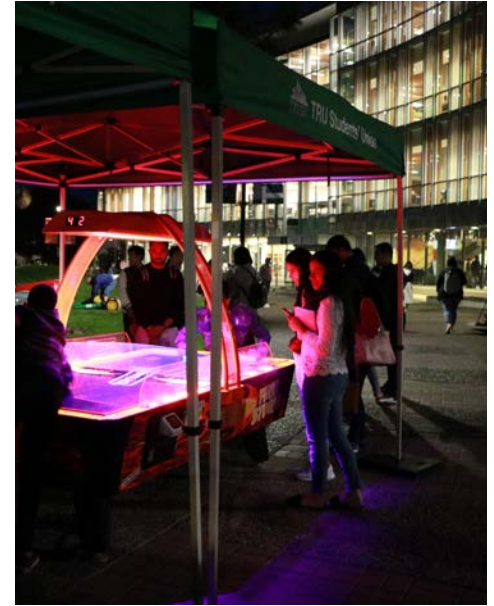




up tables for standing committees to advertise their upcoming activities and ongoing programs.

Each year, the Union receives interest from campus clubs and community organizations to participate in Clubs Day and this year, members, student clubs, and community groups expressed positive feedback about the event.

Outdoor Movie Night and Food Truck Festival



organizations, and an opportunity to get involved through their interests at the beginning of the academic year. The Union also set up a stage, played music, and gave free ice cream, provided by Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory to members throughout the event. The Union also set

The Outdoor Movie Night and Food Truck Festival was hosted on September 19, 2019, in the Campus Commons outside the Campus Activity Centre. The Food Truck Festival included local food trucks, inflatable attractions, and games. It was followed by an Outdoor Movie Night screened on a 50-foot blow-up screen with stadium surround sound, featuring Avengers: Endgame.

The event was attended by more than 700 participants. The Union was encouraged by the popularity of the event and will continue to explore opportunities to expand the event to provide additional entertainment offerings.





Common Voices Lecture Series

On February 27, 2019, the Union hosted its annual Common Voices Lecture Series with the keynote speaker Dr. Brian Goldman, one of North America's most trusted voices in medicine and the host of the popular CBC Radio Show "White Coat, Black Art". Dr. Goldman presented on healthcare both needing and anticipating a big disruptive systemic shake-up. The lecture was attended by more than 600 participants.

As part of the event, the Union continued to provide a unique and personal experience for campus club leaders, who share interests that were aligned with Dr. Goldman's expertise to meet and have a discussion before the event.

Additionally the Union provided lecture attendees with the opportunity to participate in a free workshop on how technology is revolutionizing preconceived notions of health and healthcare in Kamloops and British Columbia. The workshop was delivered by Interior Health on March 14, 2019, in the Students' Union Building. The workshop served as an additional opportunity for

participants to further improve and take action on the topic of the lecture. The workshop was attended by more than 25 participants.

Awards of Excellence Social

Established in 2018, the Unions' Awards of Excellence seeks to recognize those individuals who have gone above and beyond in service to the community and whose everyday actions demonstrate the values and commitment that makes Thompson Rivers University a worldwide destination.

On April 2, 2019, the Union hosted the second annual Award of Excellence Social. The social



Awards of Excellence

brought together Club leaders, Student Caucus members, TRUFA representatives, CUPE 4879 representatives, and colleagues from TRUSU for an evening filled with fun, games, and a chance to recognize those who make Thompson Rivers University a great place to study and work.

At the social, the Union presented 8 Awards of Excellence to students and staff who have surpassed their duties in service to our community and whose actions exemplify the Union's Mission, Vision, and Values.

The Union was encouraged by the feedback regarding the Awards of Excellence and looks forward to recognizing students and staff who make positive and long-lasting impacts on students.

Last Class Bash

The Union's Last Class Bash serves as a way of celebrating the end of classes and highlighting the activities of the Union through the year.

On April 12, 2019, the Union hosted a beverage garden, local food trucks, and a DJ for the Annual Last Class Bash held in the Campus Commons outside the Students' Union Building. More



than 500 members attended the event throughout the day. The event included a licensed bar provided by TRU Ancillary Services that offered drinks from local Kamloops breweries.

The Union worked diligently to ensure that this event was held to high safety standards that ensured the wellbeing of its members as well as the longevity of the event on campus.



Holiday Fest

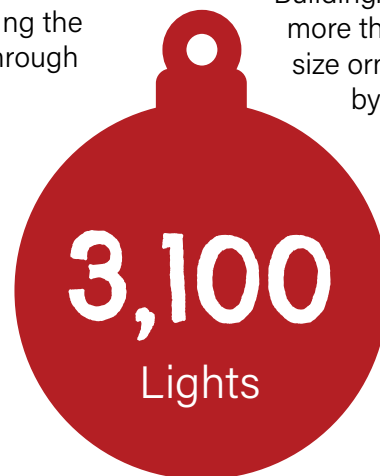
In 2019/20, the Union hosted the first-ever Holiday Fest to mark the end of fall semester, build community, and to celebrate the holiday season by bringing everyone together before the holidays.

On November 29, 2019, the Union hosted a winter carnival with art activities, a photo station, food, music, and a

tree-lighting ceremony. The Union illuminated the large ponderosa pine tree outside the Students' Union Building. The tree also featured more than 35 large basketball-size ornaments decorated by various faculties,

schools, departments, and Clubs at TRU.

Decorating these ornaments provided participants with a fun and unique community-building activity for 35 well-established campus groups. The event was attended by more than





350 students, staff, and community members.

The Union is encouraged by the feedback from its members and the TRU community and looks forward to building on this event and starting a new holiday tradition.

Club Activities

A significant part of the Union’s entertainment consists of smaller events that are supported by the Union and hosted by its Union-recognized campus clubs. A vibrant network of social, academic, common interest, and cultural clubs on campus allows members to connect to each other and the Union. The Union supports campus clubs by providing a wide range of services, resources, assistance to clubs.

In 2019, the Union resourced 99 clubs with a wide variety of aims and purposes including more than 30 newly-formed clubs. Throughout 2019, the Union printed over 11,500 pages of event posters, leaflets, and other Club materials, and over 100 banners advertising club events with club branding. Club ticket sales from the Members’ Services Desk have also facilitated the administrative process of ticket sales. The Union sold over 500 tickets from the Members’ Services Desk

in 2019. Events included the Nurses’ Ball, Marketing Gala, fundraisers, and more!

In 2019, the Union hosted the Club Leaders Meeting on February 12, February 13, February 15, February 16, September 28, and October 5. At these meetings, campus club leaders received information about the legal and financial responsibilities of the signing authorities, club insurance coverage, how to access club services, club funding, and everything else to run their clubs successfully. This meeting also served as a networking opportunity for Club Leaders. The Union continues to produce certificates for clubs, helping them recognize participation, work, and dedication of Club participants. In 2018, the Union produced more than 500 certificates for more than 40 clubs.

In the future, the Union will investigate other options for creating a review of the year’s activities and more engaging activities while maintaining a safe environment for members attending respective events.

