

**YOUR  
REPORT ON  
PHILANTHROPY** 2023-24

Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwepemcúl'ecw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc. The region TRU serves also extends into the territories of the St'át'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, Tâilhqot'in, Dakelh, and Syilx peoples.





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# THANK YOU. KUKWSTSÉTSEMĆ.

## Guided by our values

Philanthropy has the power to transform society. When I think about who we are at TRU and what guides our behaviour, I think of our values. When our values and efforts as a university are aligned with investment from donors, together we can make the world a better place. Some of these ongoing efforts include:

- Fostering world-leading knowledge in wildfire science, adaptation, and response applicable to local communities through a first-of-its kind partnership with the BC Wildfire Service.
- Honouring truth, reconciliation and rights by continuing to build Indigenous research as a foundational research pillar.
- Continuing to find new ways to make education flexible and accessible to meet community needs.

TRU is a university where all people are empowered to transform themselves, their communities and the world. Thank you to all TRU donors and partners who contribute to our community-minded vision and help move us forward.

Kukwstsétsemć,



**Brett Fairbairn**  
TRU President and Vice-Chancellor



## Appreciation from the TRU Foundation

The TRU Foundation has the incredible honour and complex task of managing an endowment of nearly \$36 million. These funds have been donated over the past four decades and thoughtfully stewarded to support students and initiatives at the wishes of thousands of generous donors. The endowment supports some bursaries and scholarships that are 20 or 30 years old, and others that were just established this year. It is a privilege for the TRU Foundation to be entrusted with these funds.

This year alone, the TRU Foundation dispersed \$2.1 million in donor funds to nearly 1,000 students through awards, scholarships and bursaries. We are pleased to see this number growing steadily each year. Thank you to every donor who made a generous contribution this year.

Thank you to the TRU Foundation board of directors for your service to TRU and to the TRU Advancement staff for your dedication.

Sincerely,



**Mack Kanigan**  
TRU Foundation President



# 2023–2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

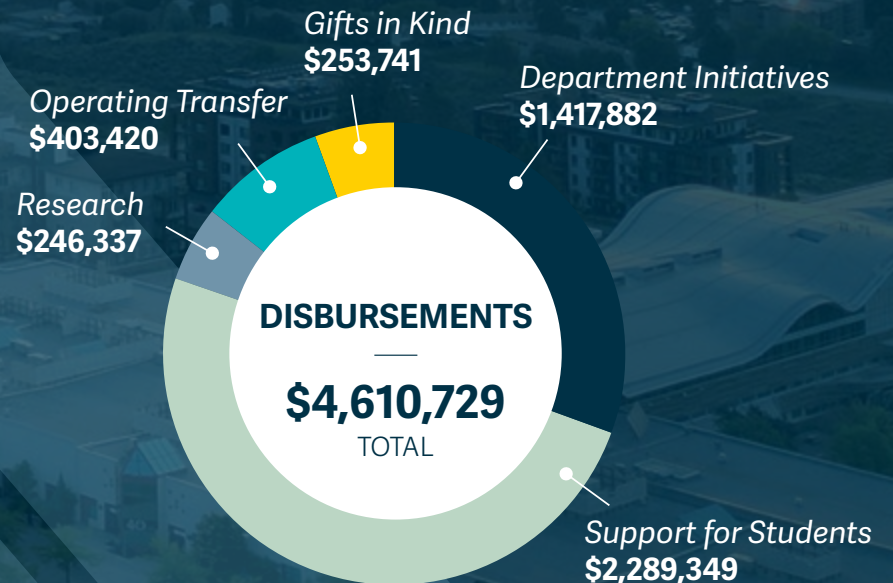
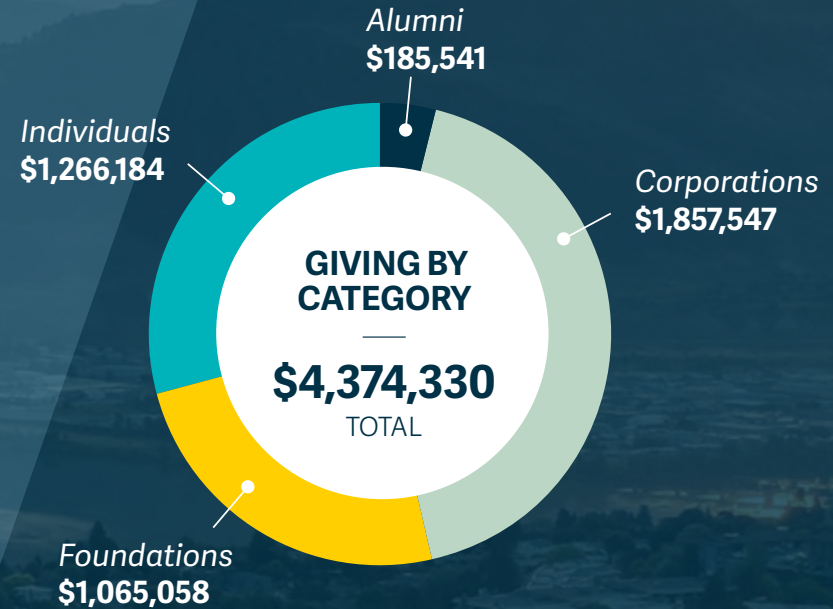
Figures based on March 31, 2024 unaudited financial statements

**\$4,374,330**  
Total funds raised

**\$314,056**  
Operating expenses

**975**  
students received  
donor-funded awards

**\$1,540,915**  
in additional pledges



# OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE





## TRU Gala

### TRU FOUNDATION GALA

The TRU Foundation Gala: Adventure is Calling was held on April 22, 2023 and invited donors to support the Faculty of Adventure, Culinary Arts and Tourism (FACT). **Donors gave \$82,000 to fund the purchase of a passenger van for experiential learning opportunities in backcountry and urban destinations.** FACT prepares students for a range of careers in outdoor adventure guiding, tourism leadership and management, crafting cuisine for modern bistros and fine-dining restaurants and creating memorable experiences. In total, the 2023 TRU Foundation Gala raised \$250,000 to support students at TRU.



**WATCH:** Spotlight on Fund-a-need 2023: Help students go places.



## TRU WL Gala

### TRU WILLIAMS LAKE GALA

Raising \$37,665, the TRU Williams Lake Gala returned on Oct. 14, 2023 after a four-year hiatus. Funds raised supported the newly created Williams Lake Endowed Fund and a goal to raise \$1 million that will fund student awards and bursaries in Williams Lake in perpetuity. **Mark and Sally Nairn were the first contributors, donating \$100,000 to establish the endowment.**



## Day of Giving

**Day of Giving raised \$81,591 on Feb. 29, 2024 surpassing the goal to raise \$48,000 in 48 hours.** A total of 223 donors — including alumni, long-time individual supporters, organizations and new contributors — chose from several areas to make their donation during the campaign. Donors were invited to choose their cause, with most opting to support student bursaries and scholarships.



## TRUnity

TRU's annual employee giving campaign, now known as TRUnity Employee Giving, empowers staff, faculty and administration to make a meaningful impact on students' lives. Staff were invited to support student success with a one-time or ongoing payroll deduction during the 10-day campaign in October 2023. **Following the campaign, participation in payroll deduction giving was up 20 per cent and total contributions through payroll deduction amounted to over \$100,000.**



## Evening of Champions

The TRU WolfPack Evening of Champions brought together athletic supporters on March 12, 2024 to celebrate triumphs, inspire future victories and ensure TRU's varsity athletes continue to shine on and off the field. Keynote speaker Kaleb Dahlgren, who played for the Humboldt Broncos, shared his story of gratitude and resilience. **This event raised over \$50,000 for student athlete scholarships.**

# PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

## Excellence in athletics, advocacy and undergraduate research

### Jayse Heer-Matonovich

*Second-year Bachelor of Arts student*

Awards received: The Kamloops Sports Legacy Award, the Kerry Lynne Roberts Memorial Award, and the TRU Ambassador's Entrance Scholarship.

**“I learned that change has to start somewhere, and even if it's a slow process, it's worth it.”**

**JAYSE HEER-MATONOVICH HAS BEEN DISTURBED BY GENDER INEQUALITIES** since she was 10 years old. She first challenged the status quo as a Grade 7 student when she wanted to try out for the boys' basketball team, taking her challenge all the way to the school board. It sparked her passion for human rights, and she's been leading the charge for change ever since.

“I learned that change has to start somewhere, and even if it's a slow process, it's worth it,” she says. “That's what lights a fire under me — knowing that if you continue to push and fight for change, things will happen.”



Now 19 and in her second year of a Bachelor of Arts degree at TRU, Heer-Matonovich is already a savvy researcher with an ardent commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

A scholarship winner and varsity athlete, she began as a volunteer research assistant with the cultural mapping and student training initiative at TRU in 2021 when she was still a high school student. Inspired by the experience and what she was learning about qualitative research, she pursued a self-directed research capstone project, initiating her own EDI study as a Grade 11 student at Sa-Hali Secondary School in Kamloops.

“From the outset, Jayse distinguished herself as an outstanding field researcher, demonstrating remarkable skill, independence, and an amazing work ethic,” says her faculty mentor Dr. Will Garrett-Petts.

Using a method called cultural mapping, she asked participants to sketch where in the school they encounter positive or negative experiences of equity, diversity and inclusion and collected over 130 responses from staff and students of varying ages, genders and ethnicities.

“The power of this method is there’s no wrong way of doing it and it includes everybody,” says Heer-Matonovich.

She reported on her findings and administration at Sa-Hali Secondary School implemented some changes to spaces in the school based on her research. Since then, she has presented the results of the study to the school district and multiple universities, including several faculties at TRU.

“We have all this data and now we’re moving forward to implement positive changes,” she says. “It’s a really cool opportunity to continue this work and I have a burning passion for it.”

On the basketball court, Heer-Matonovich was recruited to play her senior year at a basketball prep school in Niagara Falls, ON. She then signed with the TRU WolfPack — a homecoming opportunity she was delighted to pursue. Her parents are both TRU alumni and former athletes.

“One of the main reasons I decided on TRU is that I don’t know if I would have the same research opportunities at any other university,” she says “I loved playing basketball in Ontario, but I missed doing research. At TRU, I was able to do both.”

**“If it wasn’t for the financial support, I wouldn’t have been able to focus on all the research I was doing, continue to train hard for my sport and athletics, and focus on my studies.”**

Thanks to donor support, along her journey Heer-Matonovich has been recognized for her determination and commitment to athletics and academics with several scholarships and awards. In 2024, she received an award for having one of the top 10 grade-point averages in the Faculty of Arts — earned while juggling multiple research projects, court-time and rehabilitation from an injury that kept her sidelined for much of the 23/24 basketball season. In 2023, she was the recipient of the Kamloops Sports Legacy Award, the Kerry Lynne Roberts Memorial Award, and was one of nine students to be awarded the TRU Ambassador’s Entrance Scholarship.

“I’m so thankful for all the awards and scholarships I’ve gotten,” she says. “If it wasn’t for the financial support, I wouldn’t have been able to focus on all the research I was doing, continue to train hard for my sport and athletics, and focus on my studies. It takes the financial stress off and allows me to focus on the things I love to do.”

Continuing with her undergrad, Heer-Matonovich is grateful for all the support she receives from the TRU community and is more dedicated than ever to advocating for human rights through research and community engagement. Her sights are set on law school and post-grad studies, and she knows TRU is the right place to be to pursue her passions.

“TRU’s Envision goals challenge us to become Canada’s leading university in research and scholarship based on community partnerships and undergraduate research training,” Garrett-Petts says. “We are intent on providing equitable access to meaningful research experiences for all students. Research puts knowledge into practice and allows students to use critical thinking to test their knowledge in a new, applied way.”

Outside of her studies, Heer-Matonovich is also actively pursuing a new athletic endeavour — rugby — after being selected by Rugby Canada to move to the second phase of testing following an RBC Training Ground qualifying event. ■



**WATCH:** Spotlight on award recipients



# PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## Campaign creates opportunities for Williams Lake students

**A NEWLY ESTABLISHED \$1-MILLION ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN** is aimed at making education more affordable for students in Williams Lake.

Philanthropists Mark and Sally Nairn are championing the Williams Lake Endowed Fund at the TRU campus in that community, which will provide financial support to students.

"There are a lot of very good students in this town who have great capabilities and are smart people — they just don't have the finances to go to university and it's a real shame," says Mark Nairn. "The reason we picked \$1 million as our goal is that it should generate about \$40,000 a year that will be used for bursaries to support students in need coming to our campus."

The Nairns kickstarted the initiative by pledging \$100,000 during the TRU Williams Lake Gala in October 2023. An additional \$37,665 was raised through the Gala's fund-a-need auction. In order to reach the million-dollar goal, Mark and Sally Nairn are challenging others to step up for students in Williams Lake.

"It's not only good for the students, it's good for our community as well," says Mark. "The university is an economic driver here and I think anybody who's lived here and done well really should contribute."

**The Nairns kickstarted the initiative by pledging \$100,000 during the TRU Williams Lake Gala in October 2023**

Giving back is already second nature for many people in the Cariboo, including members of TRU Grit, a group of volunteers who support students through fundraising initiatives, such as the annual TRU Williams Lake Gala. Over the past eight years, the gala has raised more than \$200,000 to support post-secondary students in Williams Lake, with all funds raised going directly to the annual TRU Grit scholarships, awards and bursaries.

As TRU Williams Lake looks ahead, a \$1-million endowment ensures long-term financial sustainability for student support. All contributions to the Williams Lake Endowed Fund will generate revenue to benefit students in that community, annually and in perpetuity.



Mark and Sally Nairn at the TRU Williams Lake Gala, 2023

Over the years, many students in Williams Lake have benefited from TRU Grit scholarships, awards and bursaries, including TRU student Lauren Penner.

"It's really difficult to study full time while managing a household with three very busy children, so if I tried to work a full-time job or even a part-time job, I think that would

really impact my studies. Having some extra income to help cover those costs reduces my stress and helps me excel in class," says Penner, who plans to go into nursing in Williams Lake after she graduates. "There's nothing better than supporting someone [pursuing] higher education and supporting the growth of this community." ■



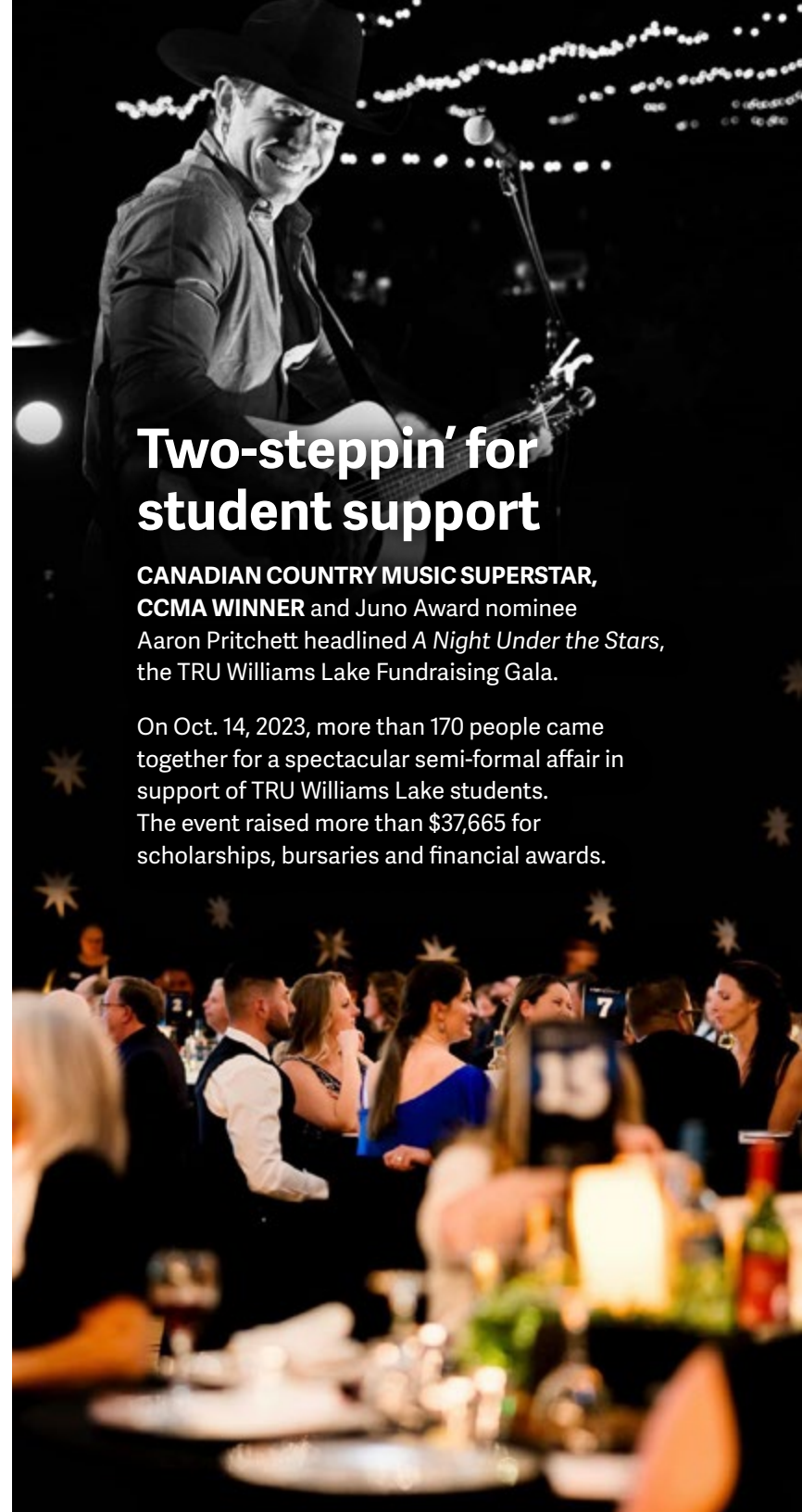
"There's nothing better than supporting someone [pursuing] higher education and supporting the growth of this community."



Lauren Penner and her family



**WATCH:** Spotlight on the Williams Lake Endowed Fund for Student Support



## Two-steppin' for student support

**CANADIAN COUNTRY MUSIC SUPERSTAR, CCMA WINNER** and Juno Award nominee Aaron Pritchett headlined *A Night Under the Stars*, the TRU Williams Lake Fundraising Gala.

On Oct. 14, 2023, more than 170 people came together for a spectacular semi-formal affair in support of TRU Williams Lake students. The event raised more than \$37,665 for scholarships, bursaries and financial awards.

# PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR HONOURING LOVED ONES

## Outpouring of love for fallen athlete

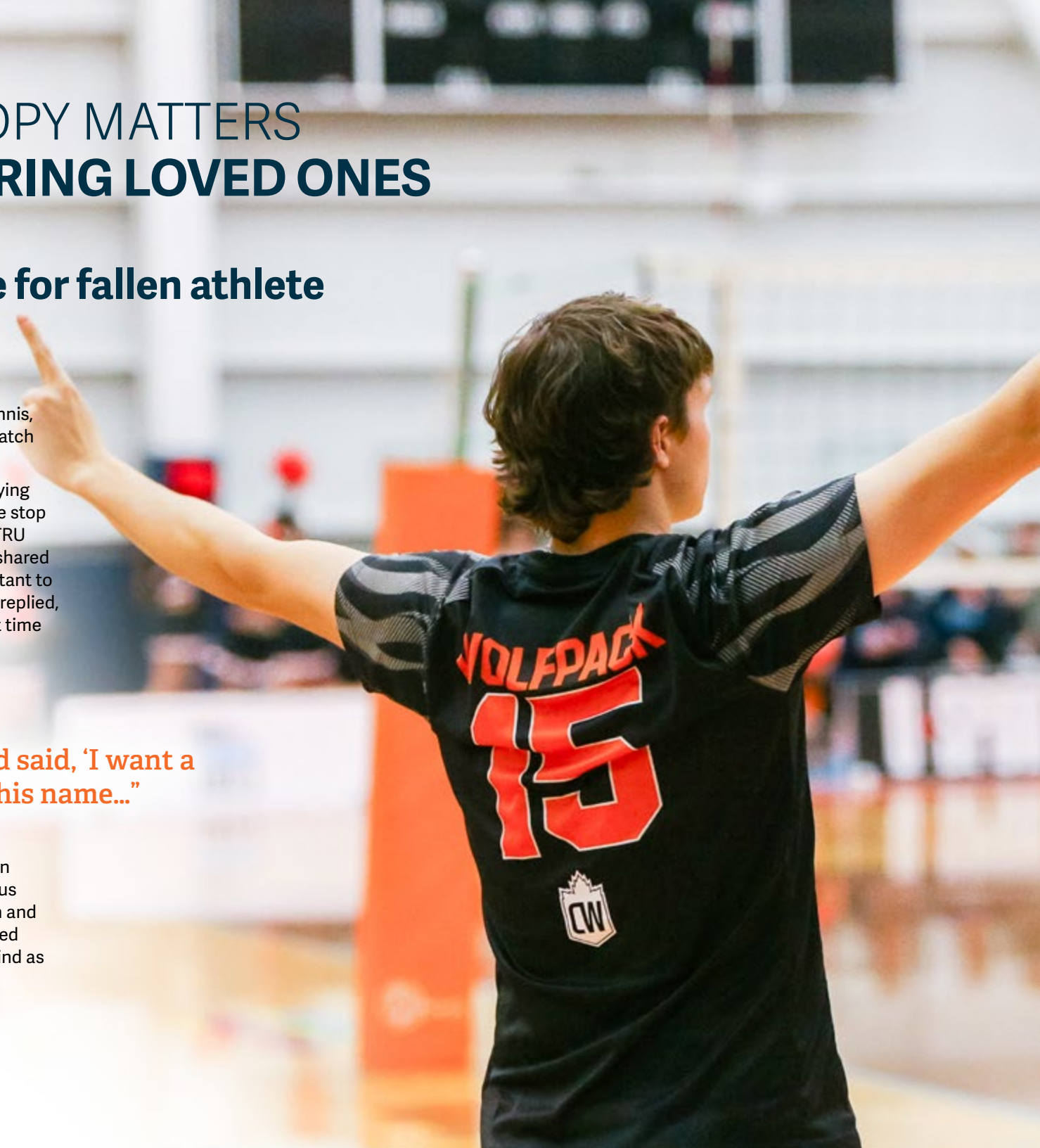
**ON SUNDAY, NOV. 26, 2023, ERIN WALTER SAID GOODBYE** to her only son, Owyn McInnis, as she headed to the Kamloops airport to catch a flight home.

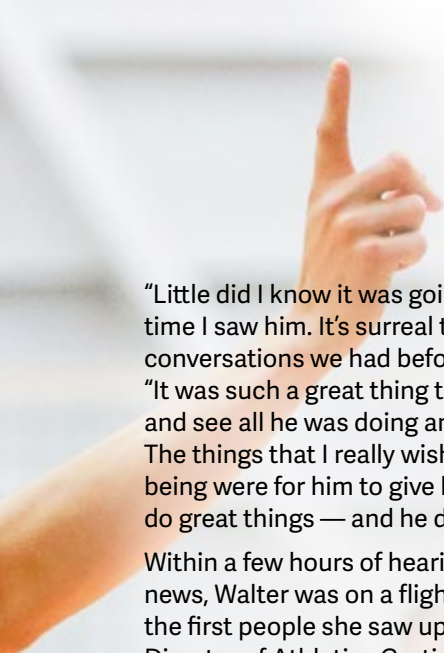
After an incredible four-day visit, she was flying home to Guelph, ON, and Owyn insisted she stop by the house he shared with several other TRU WolfPack athletes to say goodbye. As they shared a final hug, Walter says Owyn seemed reluctant to let go. She asked him if he was okay and he replied, “Why does it feel like it’s going to be the last time I’m ever going to hug you?”

It would be their last embrace.

**“I looked at him and said, ‘I want a scholarship in his name...’”**

On Wednesday, Nov. 29 McInnis was killed in a multi-vehicle crash just beyond the campus border. Two of his teammates, Riley Brinnen and Owen Waterhouse, were also critically injured when the car they were in was hit from behind as they waited at a red light.





“Little did I know it was going to be the last time I saw him. It’s surreal to think about the conversations we had before he died,” says Walter. “It was such a great thing to be able to be out there and see all he was doing and be part of his world. The things that I really wished for him as a human being were for him to give back and fall in love and do great things — and he did — he was thriving.”

Within a few hours of hearing the devastating news, Walter was on a flight to Kamloops. One of the first people she saw upon landing was TRU Director of Athletics Curtis Atkinson.

“I looked at him and said, ‘I want a scholarship in his name,’ she says.

“I want to raise \$150,000. That way, I know that for as long as he might have lived otherwise, something connected to his name will continue helping other student-athletes.”

His father, Sheldon, sister, Brielle, and fiancée, Amber, agreed and by Dec. 2, the Owyn McInnis Memorial — Men’s Volleyball Athletic Award was announced. Donations rapidly poured in.

His loved ones know it won’t bring him back or take away their all-consuming grief, but it ensures Owyn’s name and vivacious spirit live on to help smooth the way for future WolfPack athletes who come from afar to follow a dream.

Because of Owyn, Walter takes comfort knowing other athletes will have the freedom to explore opportunities away from home, buy books, afford groceries and perhaps visit their families a little more often.

“When something tragic like this happens, we lose faith in humanity and there’s all the things that we can find wrong. Let’s look for the good. Let’s look

for the kindness. Let’s look for the ripple effect. We can’t undo what happened, but we can really help some people going forward,” says Walter, adding that shortly after Owyn passed away, she learned he had told people one day he wanted to have a scholarship in his name.

“And here we are today raising money knowing he will be remembered.”

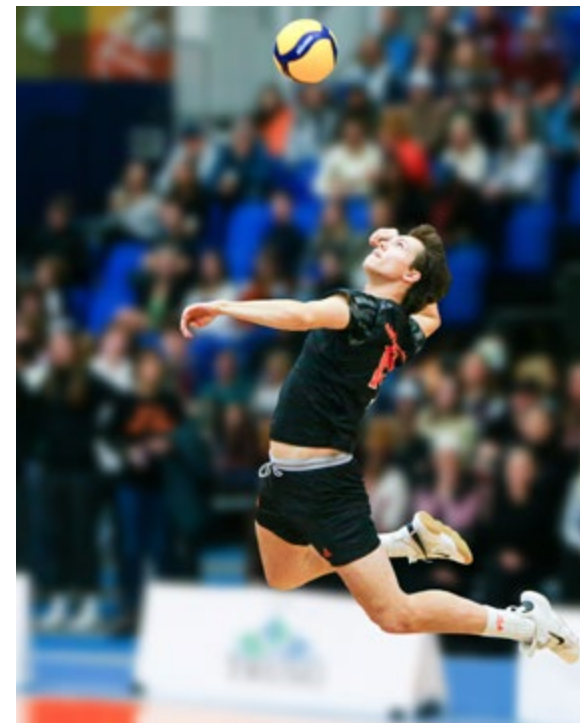
As of March 31, 2024, the Owyn McInnis Memorial Endowment had received 422 gifts

totaling \$78,205.40. Donors from BC to Ontario and all points in between have come together to honour Owyn and continue to build the endowment in his name. In addition, at least two annual volleyball tournaments have been established in Owyn’s name, ensuring young volleyball players across Canada will continue to learn of his legacy for years to come while raising money to support fellow athletes.

Donations can be made at [tru.ca/owyn](https://tru.ca/owyn). ■



Owyn McInnis with his mom, Erin Walter, and sister, Brielle McInnis.



# PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR PROGRAM ACCREDITATION



TRU faculty member James Sudhoff and donor Guy Mercier.

## Donor puts shine on veterinary program

**WHEN TRU'S VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM RECEIVED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION** in 2023, it came with a stipulation — the clinic's countertops would need to be upgraded to meet current standards. At the steep cost of \$100,000, the countertops were a necessary but expensive requirement. Thanks to a generous donation, cost did not hold the program back.

**“I feel that the vet tech program is a good cause and I like to contribute tangible items — things I can touch and feel.”**

“We planned to pick away at the project as we could. Then Guy Mercier and his family were here for a tour — we started talking about the accreditation and the need for upgraded countertops and he said he was interested in helping. It's a wonderful gift,” says department chair Heather Shannon, noting that, thanks to the substantial gift, the upgrade was completed all at once, extending to classrooms and beyond.

Mercier has a long history of philanthropy at TRU that includes funding for capital projects, student endowments and faculty needs. His philanthropic giving to TRU continues to grow, with his most recent focus on the veterinary technology program. A donation toward the purchase of a large animal simulator led to Mercier's latest gift.

In 2022, donors were invited to support Fund-A-Need to raise money for large animal simulators (a horse simulator and a cow simulator) for veterinary technology training. The initiative was successful thanks to generous donors like Mercier, and it grew donor interest in one of the university's more unique programs, one of only two veterinary technology schools in BC.

"I feel that the vet tech program is a good cause and I like to contribute tangible items – things I can touch and feel," says Mercier, whose daughter Aimee is a veterinarian and TRU alum.

"I know how important high-quality education is for veterinary and animal health professionals," he says.

While the old countertops met quality standards when they were installed years ago, upon their removal, despite diligent disinfecting and cleaning protocols, the dust and animal hair trapped along the seams provided evidence of just how important the seamless, stainless-steel upgrade is. With the upgrade extending beyond the clinic space, both animals and students are benefiting.

"The students love that they can bring animals into the classrooms — they can be studying but also have a cat on their lap. Now keeping those areas clean will be so much easier," says Shannon, adding that maximizing human and animal interactions benefit the students' mental health while also providing the necessary socialization for the animals that will help them get adopted.

Rescued dogs and cats make their home on campus during the fall and winter semesters and are then placed with their forever families. Upon adoption, all animals have been spayed or neutered, fully vaccinated, health checked and socialized. ■



Guy Mercier and Kam Khun Khun with the horse simulator they helped purchase. Also pictured are AVP Advancement Kim Cassar Torreggiani and Department Chair Heather Shannon.

# PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE

## First class of MN-NP candidates supported with donor funds

**ALONG WITH DEDICATED FACULTY** and support staff, ambitious students and generous donors made the first year of TRU's Master of Nursing-Nurse Practitioner (MN-NP) program a success.

TRU's newest graduate program started in May 2023, created in response to a struggling BC health-care system and perpetual doctor shortage. Three students in the first cohort were assisted by generous funding from ardent TRU donors and honorary degree recipients Roland and Anne Neave.

The Neaves have created endowments that support multiple scholarships and bursaries and, in 2014, they donated 160 acres of land near Clearwater/Wells Gray Provincial Park to TRU for educational purposes. When they learned that TRU was slated to start a nurse practitioner program, they were once again eager to support.

"Knowing what a shortage of doctors and NPs there are in BC and recognizing how nurse-practitioners can serve rural communities where there is no hospital, the program appealed to us," says Roland Neave.

Shavonne Rock and Philip Teichroeb each received an award from the Drs. Anne and Roland Neave Nurse Practitioner Fund. NP student Jillian Gourlay received the Charles and Jean Whittaker Memorial Nurse Practitioner Bursary, also funded by the Neaves.

"When I learned that I had received funding from the Neaves, I was blown away by their generosity and deeply grateful for the help they provided," says Teichroeb. "Balancing living expenses, university expenses and significantly decreased work hours has been a considerable financial stressor. This scholarship has helped reduce that stress, enabling me to allocate more time and focus to my studies."

Prior to starting the MN-NP program, Teichroeb worked as a registered nurse at Royal Inland Hospital (RIH). He took every opportunity available to upgrade his skills, moving from intensive care to post-anesthetic recovery and then training as a peripherally inserted central catheter nurse. When the MN-NP program was announced at TRU, he was quick to apply.



Roland and Anne Neave (far left and far right, respectively), with MN-NP students Shavonne Rock and Philip Teichroeb, who each received an award from the Drs. Anne and Roland Neave Nurse Practitioner Fund.



“The first year was challenging, as returning to studies after six years can be difficult,” he says. “However, after the first semester, I quickly settled into a routine and have found myself enjoying the opportunity to learn new things. I’m looking forward to starting the second year of the NP program, as this will introduce more advanced medical knowledge in its courses.”

Rock received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2017 from TRU and has been working as a registered nurse since then. Her journey to health care started as a child helping take care of her mom, who struggles with serious health problems, including Type I diabetes. Recognizing sugar lows and knowing when to call an ambulance were the norm for Rock at a young age. As she matured, her desire to help others remained.

“Being around that your whole life and having to be aware of what those symptoms are so that you can intervene and help somebody — it’s been a part of my life for a long time,” she says, adding that her mom and aunt are both RNs as well.

Before entering the MN-NP program, Rock worked in several departments at RIH. When she returned to work following maternity leave, she met a nurse practitioner, and it opened her eyes to new possibilities. In addition to full-time studies, she maintains casual employment at RIH, works part-time as a research assistant and is involved in

starting a mentorship program for new students in the program — all while raising a busy two-year-old. She credits the support from the Neaves as helping her to make it all work without having to pile up a mass of student loan debt.

In addition to pursuing a patient-centred career as an NP and possibly a doctorate, Rock is also interested in completing academic research, specifically on ways to improve the system by streamlining health care. She has big plans and says one day she hopes to be able to help other students follow their dreams just like the Neaves did for her.

“In the future, it would be nice to be able to do what the Neaves do and fund scholarships,” she says. “For now, I’m trying to give back by giving time and advice to help others.”

May 2024 marked the second intake of future NPs. In 2025, the first graduates of TRU’s program will enter the workforce.

“There is a great need for health-care providers in our region and province,” says Tracy Christianson, graduate programs interim associate dean. “These graduates will make a significant impact and contribution to meeting the needs of the communities where they will practice.” ■



## 2023 DAY OF GIVING UPDATE:

In 2023, Day of Giving raised money for lab kits for nursing and respiratory therapy students, equipment they typically purchase themselves for lab work. The kits were distributed to grateful students at the start of the 2023 fall term.

# PHILANTHROPY MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS



Candis Garant with photos of her late sister, TRU alum Rhyannon Garant.

## Legacy of learning and healing lives on through memorial award

**TRU ALUM RHYANNON GARANT'S LIGHT SHONE SO BRIGHT** it led her family out of darkness. She worked endlessly to help others and was dogged in her determination to succeed. At the same time, she was haunted by the debilitating effects of mental illness, which led to addiction as she struggled to cope.

Rhyannon passed away in 2022 but her light shines on through the Rhyannon Garant Memorial Award.

"My sister was the inspiration and the hope in our family," says her older sister Candis, who established the award to honour Rhyannon and help other Indigenous women overcoming adversity to pursue an education.

"She helped a lot of people over the years, and I want her legacy to stay alive. I want people to know that her life was not in vain. Everything she did was not in vain."

The first in three generations not to be sent to residential school, Rhyannon was determined to find a path out of the poverty and instability she and Candis were raised in. Education was her ticket out.

She began her educational journey with the Indigenous Teacher Education Program at UCC (now TRU), leaving her home in Prince George to follow her dreams. For the next 20 years, she continued her pursuit of knowledge and earned a Master of Education from TRU in 2020. From the outset, Rhyannon actively

**"The community here provides so much guidance, so much support and it's really been a place of healing for me and my family."**

sought mentorship, community connections and volunteer opportunities. She was proud of her Dene heritage and advocated strongly for Indigenization at TRU.

In 2019, Rhyannon spoke to philanthropists at a cabinet meeting for TRU's Limitless fundraising campaign, where she shared some of her story and expressed how important the university was to her.

# INDIGENOUS GRADS HONOURED

“The community here provides so much guidance, so much support and it’s really been a place of healing for me and my family,” she said.

Candis describes Rhyannon as the leader in their family, bringing everyone together and pushing them to break free from the trauma that threatened to consume them. While Candis continues to grieve, she also takes strength from her sister’s legacy and is pursuing her own education in human services at TRU.

“She fulfilled her capacity for life in such a short time on Earth,” says Candis. “She went to a lot of places, did a lot of things and touched a lot of people’s hearts and now I get to do that — and carry her with me.”

The Rhyannon Garant Memorial Award will be awarded to an Indigenous student pursuing education at TRU. To contribute to the memorial award, email TRU Advancement Officer Kaleena Carriere at [kcarriere@tru.ca](mailto:kcarriere@tru.ca) ■

Surrounded by friends, family and the TRU Kamloops community, 30 Indigenous graduates entered the Brown Family House of Learning in June 2023 walking in rhythm to the powerful drumbeats and singing of the Sage Hills singers.

Some students wore traditional clothing, while others did not, but all were unified with the pride of their accomplishments.

“TRU is proud to host the highest number of Indigenous students of any post-secondary in BC,” says Tina Matthew, executive director of Indigenous Education, adding that TRU campuses awarded a total of 166 credentials to Indigenous students during spring 2023 convocation.

Graduates recognized support from family members and TRU staff and faculty, including those from Cplul’kw’ten (House 5), with helping guide their success.

According to a report presented to TRU’s board of governors, more than \$755,000 in award funding went to 510 Indigenous students at the university in 2022/23, representing more than 11 per cent of total awards. Indigenous students make up approximately 9.8 per cent of the TRU student population. In addition to sources disbursed by TRU, 542 Indigenous students received sponsorship funding from other external sources to cover full or partial tuition and fees.

About 20 per cent of the 2,700 Indigenous students at TRU received a financial award or grant in 2022/23, including generous donor-funded bursaries and scholarships. That number continues to grow, ensuring fewer students face financial barriers to higher education.



A group of 2023 Indigenous graduates

# 2023-2024 SUPPORTERS

*Thank you to these donors who have made contributions this year (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024)*

## \$250,000–\$500,000

Law Foundation of BC  
Kamloops Home Hardware  
Kamloops Sports Legacy Fund  
New Gold - New Afton Mine  
Raymond James Canada Ltd.  
Scotiabank  
TD Bank Group  
Teck Highland Valley Copper

## \$50,000–\$99,999

Anonymous  
Warren & Carolyn Bepple  
BMO Financial Group  
Bob & Mirella Holden  
Kamloops Blazers Education Society  
Kamloops Kia  
Tom LaFreniere & Donna Mellquist  
Estate of Shirley Lecker  
Guy Mercier & Family  
Drs. Roland & Anne Neave and Family  
RBC & RBC Foundation  
Teck Resources Limited  
Eleanor Thompson & Connors Drilling Ltd.  
TRU Students' Union  
Nels Vollo

## \$25,000–\$49,999

Richard & Fearon Blair  
Dr. Mark & Ellen Brown  
CIBC  
Harvey & Barbara Comazzetto  
Fasken  
guard.me International Insurance  
John Dobson Foundation  
KPMG LLP & KPMG Foundation  
Pay My Tuition  
The Perry Family  
Derek Pickford  
Raymond & Susan Sewell  
TELUS Sustainability and Environment  
Tkemlúps te Secwépemc  
Mike Traves (In Memoriam)

## Vancouver Foundation

### \$10,000–\$24,999

Anonymous  
0983614 BC LTD  
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