

Sun Peaks Resort LLP

September 2026

THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY



Your gift in action

Sun Peaks Resort LLP | September 2026

Since 1995, you've given $85,834 to help students succeed.

In 2022, Thompson Rivers University and Sun Peaks Resort announced a five-year partnership, which included a $75,000 donation from the resort to TRU. These funds are breaking barriers and opening opportunities to students through the:

- Sun Peaks Resort Student Familiarization Tours
- Tourism Innovation Lab
- Trails to Reconciliation field school
- Scholarships and awards

Thank you for investing in student success.



TRU Facts and Figures 2025-26

- Two campuses: Kamloops and Williams Lake
- 56+ years supporting the region
- Nine faculties and schools
- One of six research universities in British Columbia
- 93% of graduates in workforce
- Over 30,000 students: 13,660+ on campus and 18,900+ with Open Learning
- 6,000+ international students from 124 countries and regions
- 140+ on campus programs and 60+ online programs

2020 AWARDS CREATED

Sun Peaks Resort Tourism & Events Award

·This award recognizes an exemplary Tourism Management or Events & Conventions Management student. Preference will be given to a student in the secondary year of the Events & Conventions or Tourism Management Diploma program, and a student in their 3rd and 4th year of the Bachelor of Tourism Management. The ideal candidate for this award shows a passion for customer service, and a willingness to go above and beyond. Mentorship and potential work-placement opportunities at the Sun Peaks Resort & Sun Peaks Grand Hotel are offered as part of this award.

Sun Peaks Resort Culinary Award

This award recognizes a Culinary Arts student who shows great culinary potential and exemplary commitment to their craft. Preference will be given to Level 2 and Level 3 students who express an interest in working in Sun Peaks post-graduation. Mentorship and potential work-placement opportunities at Sun Peaks Resort LLP/Sun Peaks Grand LLP restaurant property are offered as part of this award.

Sun Peaks Resort Trades Award

This award recognizes an exemplary student from the School of Trades and Technology. Preference will be given to Foundation-level Heavy Mechanical, Carpentry and Electrical students. Mentorship and potential work-placement opportunities at Sun Peaks Resort LLP are offered as part of this award.

Sun Peaks Resort ECE Award

This award recognizes an exemplary Early Childhood Education student. Preference will be given to students in the second year of the ECE diploma program. Mentorship and potential work-placement opportunities at the Sundance Kids Centre are offered as part of this award.

Your impact: From the voice of recipients

"I chose to go to TRU because I love skiing Sun Peaks and I love the ski community in this area. TRU allows me to pursue my education as well as pursue my passion of skiing.

I hosted a ski/snowboard event on campus thanks to the support of my classmates and my professor Billy Collins. This was a dream of mine to bring a bit of Sun Peaks to campus through this event we called Rail Riot. In the future i hope to host more events like this.

I want to say thank you for this award. it means a lot to me as student who skis because the cost of school and skiing together can be over whelming. I plan to put this money to good use on the ski hill and in the classroom, once again thank you so much.



Justin Tarasoff
Bachelor of Tourism Management
2026 Class Valedictorian
2024 Sun Peaks Tourism & Events Award

"I want to begin by acknowledging the enormous surprise with which I received this beautiful news. It is a pride and an honour for me to have been chosen, and I want to thank you on behalf of myself and my family. I am a mother and wife, I have three beautiful and active children who generously gave me space to give my best effort during my educational period and this award crowns the diploma acquired.

Thompson Rivers University and more specifically the Early Childhood Education program and its professors gave me endless tools that harmoniously and richly complement a previous career, opening the doors to a new world, to this generous country and its warm people. I have nothing left but to thank again and send a warm hug to each of those who made this award possible.

Natalia Alegria
Early Childhood Education
2024 Sun Peaks Resort Early Childhood Education Award

Your impact: From the voice of recipients

"Thank you very much for presenting me with this generous award. I am very thankful not just for the financial support it will provide for me, but also that it reflects my field of study and career choice of early childhood education. I hope that my education through TRU will enable me to give back to my community and potentially to outside sources as well."



Juliana Wasylinko
Early Childhood Education
2025 Sun Peaks Resort Early Childhood Education Award

"Thank you for the Sun Peaks Tourism & Events Award. I am honoured to have won this award and for being recognized for my dedication to events.

I am pursuing a Bachelor of Tourism Management, majoring in Tourism Studies with a concentration in Festivals and Events and a co-op designation, while also completing my Sports Event Management Diploma at TRU.

I am from Kamloops, so growing up playing sports in a sport-minded community led me to wanting to work in sports. Through my studies, I discovered an interest in event planning and management, which has shaped my future goals towards sports events.

I am so very grateful for the award. So with the utmost sincerity, thank you."

Kaitlin Bragg
Bachelor of Tourism Management
2024 Sun Peaks Resort Trades Award

I would like to thank you for this award. This money will help me out a lot with living expenses and tools."

Tanner Hobson
Electrical Foundation
2024 Sun Peaks Resort Trades Award

2022

FUNDS CREATED

Sun Peaks Student Fam Tour

The purpose of this fund is to support the transportation of students for an annual familiarization tour to Sun Peaks Resort and Sun Peaks Grand. These tours will be offered in the fall semester for up to 44 people, offering students the chance to ride the chairlift, visit various Sun Peaks properties and participate in a culinary experience.

Trails to Reconciliation

The purpose of this fund is to support Trails to Reconciliation – a 12-day field course where students travel throughout the Interior to Indigenous communities to help build biking trails while aiming to understand the impacts of community-based tourism development and learn about traditional land use.

Tourism Innovation Lab

The purpose of this fund is to support TRU's Tourism Innovation Lab, a hub of tourism research and industry mentorship. The student's application of research will produce tourism product ideas that will be presented to a panel of tourism stakeholders that includes Tourism Kamloops, Kamloops Innovation, TRU, industry experts and program funders including Sun Peaks Resort.




SUN PEAKS
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY
$ 75,000
SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND



SUN PEAKS STUDENT FAMILIARIZATION TOURS

Excited groups of Thompson Rivers University students from across several faculties take part in annual familarization tours at Sun Peaks Resort. Students experience firsthand the many career pathways available within a world-class mountain resort. From hospitality and culinary services to recreation, operations, events, marketing, and guest experience, they gain valuable insight into the breadth of opportunities available in the tourism industry and the many ways a career in the sector can grow and evolve.

One of the greatest benefits of experiences like this is that careers become real when students can see them in action. By stepping out of the classroom and into a working resort environment, students witness how their learning connects to industry, teams and community.

In 2025, to mitigate the challenge of bringing trades' students to the resort, Sun Peaks staff visited the Kamloops campus to host a lunch and learn instead. This event was a success and is being planned for 2026 as well.

Partnerships like this strengthen learning, inspire career exploration and help ensure TRU graduates are prepared to thrive in their chosen fields.

> My visit to Sun Peaks was truly eye-opening. What struck me most was how technology seamlessly integrates into the visitor experience, ensuring safety with innovations like lift passes and the well-marked red lines at lift stations. Yet, remarkably, it didn't diminish the raw beauty of nature. In fact, my friends and I were treated to the awe-inspiring sight of a bald eagle while riding the lift up the hills — an unforgettable moment for someone like me, hailing from a bustling city where such encounters are a rarity.

Ha Quang "Joey" Le
Bachelor of Tourism Management student

> Experiences like this give students an opportunity to see what is possible for them in the culinary industry. Being able to walk through the kitchens, meet the people working there, and see the scale of an operation like Sun Peaks makes career opportunities feel much more real and exposes them to different career paths they may not have considered before. It also gives students the chance to start building connections within the industry while they are still in school.

Shane LaRoche
Culinary Arts faculty member





Thompson Rivers University Tourism Management is at **Sun Peaks Resort**.
October 23, 2024 · Kamloops ·

Earlier this year, our TMGT 4030 - Resort Management students headed up to Sun Peaks Resort for a unique hands-on learning experience.

During their visit, they had the chance to dive deep into resort operations and hear directly from the experts managing this world-class destination.

From behind-the-scenes insights to embarking on a fact-finding mission, our students gained invaluable knowledge they'll soon present to Sun Peaks' executive team.

Sun Peaks Resort See less







TRAILS TO RECONCILIATION FUND

From building trails to building relationships, support from Sun Peaks Resort is forging connections with Thompson Rivers University (TRU) students.

In 2022, Sun Peaks Resort pledged $75,000 to benefit students. Some of those funds were allocated to the TRU Trails to Reconciliation Fund, a field course developed as a way for students to assist with trail-building efforts in Indigenous communities and teach them about traditional land use and help them understand the results of community-based tourism development.

2023

FIELD SCHOOL

INTERIOR BC



The field school in 2023 took the group to three communities, where they partnered with a trail builder to do spring trail maintenance. The first stop on the tour was in Xatśūll, north of Williams Lake, where students cleaned up mountain biking trails in anticipation of a busy riding season. From there, they headed to the Big Bar Guest Ranch, recently purchased by the Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation (SXFN), which offers visitors a traditional Indigenous experience interwoven with the daily life of a wrangler. The ranch was privately owned for many years and is being revitalized by SXFN to share their Secewépemc culture, language and traditions. The last stop on the tour was Chu Chua, north of Barriere. There, the group met up with Tom Eustache, a member of Simpcw First Nation and director/trail builder/lead shredder with the Indigenous Youth Mountain Bike Program. He spent three days with the students, riding with them, sharing knowledge and seeding valuable connections with community members. The experiences over the duration of the field course were life-changing for everyone involved and helped each student define what reconciliation means to them.

> "As someone who has always been passionate about outdoor adventures and surrounding cultures, this course is an excellent opportunity to learn about traditional land use and the complex issues surrounding reconciliation, especially as an adventure guide operating on unceded territories"
>
> **Thomas Blenkhorn**
> 2022 Adventure Studies diploma

TRAILS TO RECONCILIATION FUND

2024

FIELD SCHOOL

KLEMTU



In 1998 Adventure Studies Department faculty members, Ross Cloutier and Dave Freeze created a tourism development plan and strategy for the Kitasoo Xai'xais People of Klemtu. 25 years later, TRU students were provided with the opportunity to experience first-hand the challenges and successes of this community-based tourism project during the Trails to Reconciliation field school. This 10-day field school for upper-level degree students in the tourism management program explored how education allows for the opportunity to seek allyship in communities as we work towards a sustainable future in tourism. Students learned how Indigenous tourism provides a platform to understand the importance of collaboration from policy development, relationship building, rightsholder engagement and planning. These learning opportunities demonstrated that long term commitment from rightsholders is essential to protect these places for generations to come.

2026

FIELD SCHOOL

HAIDA GWAII



This 12-day field school for upper-level degree students at TRU highlighted the essential role of community in shaping meaningful learning and personal growth. Through immersive engagement, students come to understand that strong relationships built on trust, respect, and active listening form the foundation for allyship. By participating in shared activities, dialogue, and reflection within both the larger and smaller community groups, learners develop a deeper appreciation for diverse perspectives and lived experiences. Connecting with community members at Xatsull Heritage Site, the village of K'san, private tours at Haida Heritage Centre and Tluu Xaada Naay Society (canoe carving shed) offered the unique opportunity to reflect on the value of relationships in Indigenous tourism.



TOURISM INNOVATION LAB

Since 2022, Sun Peaks Resort has supported the development and delivery of programming facilitated through the Tourism Innovation Lab. This programming helps emerging entrepreneurs develop skills to turn their ideas into flourishing businesses that will create and enhance tourism experiences in the Kamloops region.

Your generous support contributes to the coordination of classroom activities, partner engagement and pitch-based programming that encourages applied learning, innovation and entrepreneurial thinking within the local tourism sector.

The fund also supports the evolving nature of the Tourism Innovation Lab, enabling the continued refinement of programming and collaboration between students and partners to address emerging opportunities and support the development of sustainable business models in tourism.

> **This program's impact is significant on the students who participate, as many students refer to the course as an experience that ties together the learnings from other courses in their degrees, and we are truly excited to continue to grow this impact and expand our influence across the campus and region.**

David Carter
Tourism Innovation Lab Director

Your impact: From the voices of participants



In 2022, Tourism Innovation Lab participant Jada Glen developed the McAbee Fossil Bed Tour, an interpretive experience set roughly halfway between Kamloops and Ashcroft. With stipend support from the lab, Jada was able to dedicate time to stakeholder outreach, permissions and detailed route planning. A central challenge was land access. The fossil beds, once open to visitors, are now under the stewardship of the Bonaparte First Nation. Notably, following Jada's pilot, the Bonaparte First Nation developed its own tours at McAbee —evidence that the concept had merit and a pathway for Indigenous-led delivery.



In 2022, TRU Tourism Innovation Lab participant Steffen Masaites launched Shred Loops Bike Tours, a guided mountain biking experience based in Kamloops. Drawing on his own passion for riding — and the reputation of Kamloops as a premier biking destination — Steffen set out to make the sport more accessible for visitors and locals who were curious but inexperienced. His concept focused on safe, supervised rides that built confidence while showcasing the region's trails. By lowering the barrier to entry, Steffen opened the door for more people to enjoy mountain biking responsibly.



In summer 2023, international student Alexander Page launched KAMTRECKS — guided nature walks in the Kamloops area with a maximum group size of 12. More than a hike, KAMTRECKS offers a fully guided, educational experience shaped by Alexander's lifelong practice of taking people into the outdoors. The Tourism Innovation Lab's purpose — to spark new, place-based tourism experiences in Kamloops — provided the platform for KAMTRECKS to take root and meet clear visitor demand.



In summer 2023, Tourism Innovation Lab participant Natalie Boucher set out to design Wild Women Forest Bathing — a guided nature experience for women. Far from tubs and bubbles, her concept blended quiet meditation and light yoga in a controlled wilderness setting just outside Kamloops. Aimed at women of all ages and backgrounds, the offering was crafted to reconnect participants with place, community and their own "wild" selves. Natalie's project demonstrates how the Tourism Innovation Lab catalyzes new, experience-led tourism in Kamloops. Her concept diversifies the region's offerings with a small-footprint, wellness-oriented activity that appeals to high-value cultural explorers and intentional travelers.

Your impact: From the voices of participants



In summer 2023, TRU student Adrian Clementino developed Kamloops Paddle Tours, a guided inflatable-kayak experience designed for domestic travelers — especially families — seeking engaging, affordable ways to connect with Kamloops' natural environment. His concept focused on calm, accessible paddling along the South Thompson River within city limits. Adrian's work advances the lab's mission by proving demand for an accessible, nature-connected river experience that aligns with Kamloops' outdoor brand.

In summer 2024, Tourism Innovation Lab participant Bradley Bell set out to enhance Kamloops' golf experience with Toptracer Kamloops, a venture exploring adoption of Toptracer — an advanced ball-tracking and gamification system for driving ranges that displays real-time ball flight and shot data and powers fun, skill-building games for all ages. The concept aligned squarely with the lab's purpose: supporting new tourism experiences that attract and engage visitors while strengthening local operators.



In 2025, TRU Tourism Innovation Lab participant Riley Schutz launched Rugged Light Photo Tours, a guided photography experience based in Kamloops. The concept combines exploration of the city's surrounding grasslands and river valleys with practical instruction in outdoor photography. Inspired by his own passion for capturing the landscapes of Kamloops, Riley recognized a gap in the market: while the city offered plenty of adventure and sightseeing tours, few experiences focused on helping participants improve their photography skills while discovering the area's natural beauty. With a successful pilot completed and a public launch underway, Riley continues to refine his offering and explore opportunities for expansion and partnerships with local tourism operators. Rugged Light Photo Tours exemplifies the Tourism Innovation Lab's mission to turn student ideas into market-ready ventures.







Supporting students: A lasting impact

Because of donors like you, from the first day at TRU until the last, students feel empowered to explore opportunities, make connections, take chances and become the best versions of themselves.

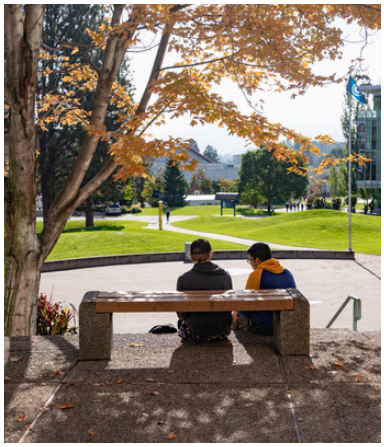
Your generosity is helping raise students to new heights and will continue to strengthen our community through the success of TRU alumni.

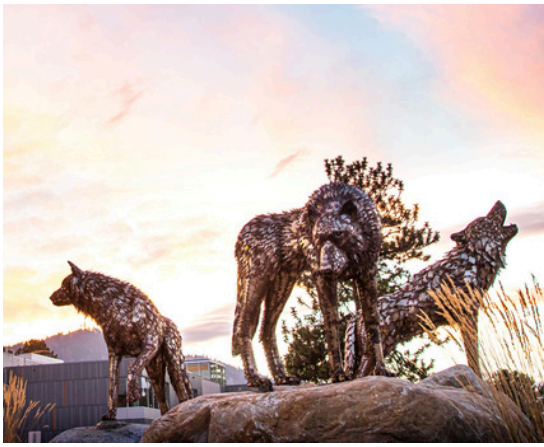
Thank you, Sun Peaks Resort.

Your impact will continue to open doors for existing and future students, removing barriers and motivating them to accomplish their goals.

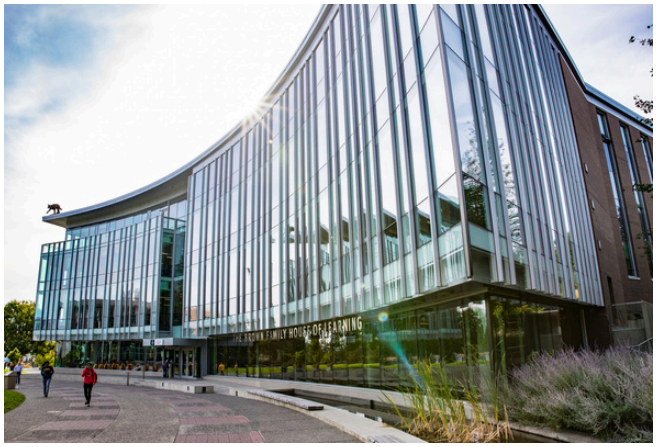
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