

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 4

The

TRUFA Monthly

Keeping you updated on the goings-on of your faculty association



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TRUFA Annual BBQ

Please come out to the annual TRUFA BBQ to enjoy good times, great food and live music with your colleagues.



The BBQ takes place at House 1 next to the campus daycare from 11:30 to 1:30 Friday, September 19th.

Food is being provided by Jill's Café.

Entertainment provided by Faculty members Brian Bouthillier and Doug Baleshta (and friends).

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Message from the President

President's Report

BY TOM FRIEDMAN
TRUFA PRESIDENT

I'd like to highlight briefly two issues of importance to TRU faculty: academic governance and the FPSE Public Education campaign.

Academic Governance

Over the past year, TRUFA has been presenting at Faculty/School Councils and encouraging faculty participation in all forms of governance. Academic governance, of course, begins most importantly at the department level with attendance at department meetings, which ensures that faculty have full input into decision-making and that Chairs are able to be guided by the collective will of the department. Faculty participation, of course, is also needed on a range of departmental committees, some dictated by the TRU / TRUFA collective agreement—workload, performance review, and appointments—plus other key bodies such as timetabling, program and curriculum development, student recruitment, etc. Since the 2006 round of bargaining, TRUFA has managed to provide departments with consider autonomy and self-governance, but faculty involvement is essential for that status to be maintained and fully exercised.

Faculty involvement in Faculty and School Councils, likewise, is a major component of the shared governance model of the University. Councils now will have enhanced roles in the overall governance of the University by electing faculty Senators, electing F/S reps to tenure and promotion committees, and – given the new TRU budget model – playing a major role in F/S budget decisions. Unlike at the departmental level wherein decisions and recommendations are determined solely by faculty, on Councils, both faculty and academic administrators must work collegially to determine the overall direction of the F/S, coordinate academic standards within the F/S, and recommend new programs, courses and curriculum to Senate bodies. TRUFA has strongly recommended that F/S Councils provide direction to their faculty Senators and encourage Senators to bring Senate agendas to Councils and report back on Senate decisions. This form of accountability is essential if we are to use the Senate appropriately to further academic goals.

Finally, the proper functioning of the Senate and its standing committees relies on the willingness of faculty to participate fully and act as representatives of their academic units. In 2005 when the TRU Act was proclaimed, the University was provided with the academic governance bodies that are appropriate for all universities. However, the TRU Act—unlike the Universities Act—does not guarantee a faculty majority, but rather allows

for two faculty representatives from each Faculty or School. As a result, TRUFA believes that faculty have a greater responsibility of raising issues from their F/S, speaking up and voting in the best interests of faculty, academic programs and students. Speaking up in a governance body chaired by the TRU President, with the presence of VPs, AVPs, Directors and other administrators can be intimidating. However, it's good to remember that we are the academic experts in our disciplines; we have a responsibility to uphold academic standards in the best interests of our programs; and, if we work cooperatively, we have the power to enforce our will on the Senate. To achieve that last goal, and further the good work being done by our Senators and those who serve on Senate standing committees, what I'd like to propose is that TRUFA organize a regularly scheduled series of meetings in which Senators and committee representatives can share information, develop strategy and work collegially. As you may know, the TRU Student Union has adopted a Governance Council model, whereby all of the student governance body representatives meet regularly. I feel that such a plan would help to enhance faculty governance at TRU. With the assistance of the TRUFA Executive, I will be planning such meetings in the near future.

News from the President

FPSE Public Education Campaign



As I reported early in the summer, the FPSE membership at its AGM in May approved a major public campaign to engage the public as a way to influence public policy. The campaign's broad goals include a restoration of funding to post-secondary institutions and opposition to some of the provincial government's "blueprint" proposals, which include shifting money from existing program areas to LNG-related initiatives, program rationalization (whereby institutions such as TRU could not longer offer the full range of trades, academic access, and academic programming), and a move from publicly-supported programs to a user-pay or corporate-subsidized system.

The campaign is in its early stages at the moment. On Friday, September 12th, FPSE local presidents met with the creative media team that will implement the campaign. Two representatives from Truthfool Communications (truth-fool.com)—Angus and Sean Devlin – presented an overview of their role, and spoke about engaging FPSE members at the provincial and local levels to develop a set of specific objectives for the campaign. Truthfool has been the creative force behind some of the most talked about and effective campaigns over the past few years, including the infamous the "Shit Harper Did" ([SHD.ca](http://shd.ca)) – check out their videos at <http://truth-fool.com/shd>. Their clientele include the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Vision Vancouver, Greenpeace, the BC Teachers' Federation, CUPE BC and Defend Our Coast.

Over the next few weeks, the Truthfool team will be working with FPSE and local association to fine-tune what we want to achieve with the campaign, including target audience and specific goals. For public policy change, of course, our audience is, ultimately, the decision-makers in government, but in order to effect that kind of change, we need to persuade the broader public that post-secondary education is valuable and that increased investment in our programs is a public good, and not just a private benefit.

I would very much like to hear from TRU faculty as to what goals our campaign at the local level should contain. In addition to aiming for overall restoration of funding to a level that would allow tenure-track replacement of retirees and sufficient hiring of Limited Term Contract and Sessional faculty in all programs, some possible goals that I've been considering:

Local Campaign Goals

- overall restoration of funding to allow replacement of retirees with sufficient hiring of tenure-track, limited term contract and sessional faculty in all programs
- expanding our capacity to provide trades, academic access and 1st and 2nd year academic courses at Williams Lake and our regional centres
- ensuring appropriate support for both domestic and international students through writing, math and second language centres;
- increasing the range of courses and major programs in the Arts;
- expanded facilities—including shops, labs and equipment—in Nursing, Sciences, and Trades;
- renovation of classrooms—not just food services and washrooms—in Old Main

In solidarity,
Tom Friedman, TRUFA President

The Tsilhqot'in Land Title Decision: *A Landmark Case*



Thompson Rivers University's **Human Rights Committee of the Faculty Association** and the **Shuswap Nation Tribal Council** are pleased to present an evening session discussing the Tsilhqot'in Nation title ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada (Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia, 2014 SCC 44).

This information session will host a panel of guest speakers, including Chief Joseph Alphonse of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, TRU Law Professor Nicole Schabus, and Secwepemc Chiefs Wayne Christian (Splatsín) and Ron Ignace (Skeetchestn). Speakers will provide an overview of the case, its potential impacts to the future of all Canadians, and what this decision might mean in the traditional territory, Secwepemcúlcw.

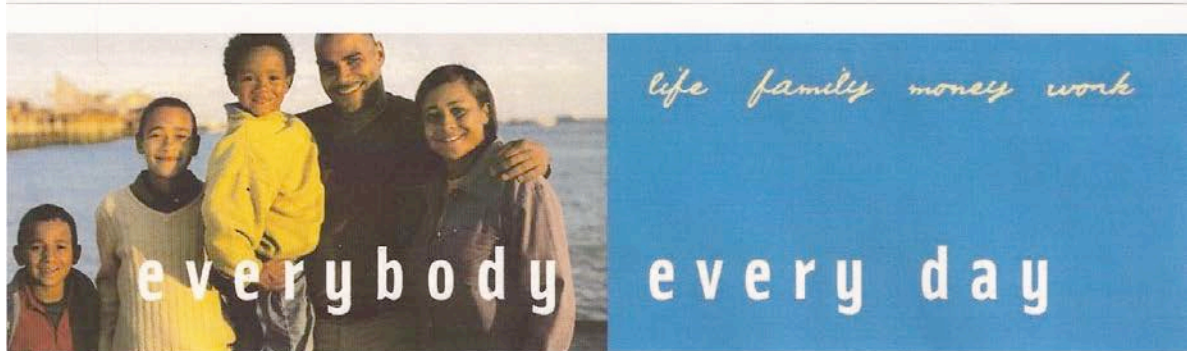
The session will be held Friday, September 26th, 2014 at 6pm in the Irving K. Barber Centre, House of Learning Building at TRU.



***All welcome at this
free public event!***



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- Budgeting, credit and debt control

■ Education

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- Advocating for special needs

■ Addiction and Recovery

- Alcohol, drugs, gambling

■ Health and Wellness

- Work/life balance, fitness, nutrition

■ Everyday Issues

- Community resources, support groups, pet care, home improvements

■ Work

- Career development, change management, productivity, relationships

■ Legal

- Legal advice, buying/selling a house, estate planning

■ Disability

- Independent living
- Family resources

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Save the Date!

<p>TRUFA Annual BBQ Sept. 19th 11:30-1:30 a.m. TRUFA Annual BBQ <hr/> at House 1</p>	<p>Panel Discussion Session .Friday Sept. 26 @ 6:00 p.m. Tsilhqot'in Nation Title Ruling by Supreme Court of Canada TRUFA Human Rights Committee and Shuswap Nation Tribal Council are sponsors</p>	<p>Bargaining Priority Discussions TBA TRUFA facilitated bargaining priorities discussions. Stay tuned for meeting dates, times and locations later this term. . Open to all faculty</p>
<p>TRUFA Constitution . Stay tuned for meetings in your area to discuss proposed updates to the TRUFA constitution.</p>	<p>Panel Discussion Session Friday Nov. 21st Tsilhqot'in Nation Title Ruling by Supreme Court of Canada Sponsored by TRUFA Human Rights Committee</p>	



TRUFA Executive



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Vice President - Star Mahara

Treasurer Peggy McKimmon

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Vocational Trades Rep. -
 Bruce Campbell

Vocational Non-Trades Rep.
 – Emma Bourassa

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 - Derek Cook

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 Hafiz Rahman, & Robin Nichol

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 Marten Lettinga & Terryl Atkins

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 Morong & Jennifer Murphy

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 Sanchez

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 Environmental Committee Rep.
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