



BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres | BCA AFC

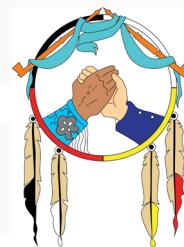
Plúkwentem re Sqwelenténs-kucw Gathering Our Voices

Pesquépts 18-21 / March 18-21
Tkemlúps te Secwépemc Territory

Weyt-kp Hello

Welcome to GOV 2025!

We are thrilled to host GOV 2025 on the territory of the Tkemlúps te Secwépemc, ne7élye ne Secwepemcúlecw (Tkemlúps te Secwépemc territory, situated within the unceded ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation)! We are grateful to Tkemlúps te Secwépemc and the Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society (KAFC) for their knowledge and collaboration as we work to create a memorable, fun, and safe event where culture is embedded every step of the way.



BC Association of Aboriginal
Friendship Centres
BCAAFC



**Gathering
Our
Voices**

Me7 t7éyenc/t7éyentp re Tkemlúpsemc/Secwépem Meet Tkemlúps te Secwépemc

At one time the Secwépemc (suh-wep-muhc) people occupied one large territory that covered approximately 145,000 square kilometers.

The traditional Secwépemc lived as a self-governing nation grouped into bands. Although each band was independent, a common language and a similar culture and belief system united them.

After European contact, the colonial government divided the Secwépemc people into 17 distinct groups with specific parcels of land designated to each. Thus, the Kamloops Reserve land base was established in 1862 under the direction of Governor James Douglas. It is located east of the North Thompson River and north of the South Thompson River, adjacent to the City of Kamloops.

Today, Tkemlúps te Secwépemc is a progressive community committed to attaining self-sufficiency and independence through education and economic development.

The Band currently has approximately 1,500 members living on and off its 33,000-acre (130 km) reserve. It is a popular spot in the summertime when they host their annual Kamloopa Powwow which has been running for more than 40 years!

Secwépemctsín

BCAAFC wants to give special thanks to the Language and Culture Department at Tkemlúps te Secwépemc, including Diane Sandy, Minnie Phillips, Hank Gott, Brandi Phillips, Day Jules, and Ethan Pincott. Kukwstép-kucw for translating our materials for us. We are thrilled and honoured to be able to include Secwépemctsín in our GOV 2025 communications.

Here are some greetings you can use throughout your time on Tkemlúps te Secwépemc territory!

You can learn more Secwépemctsín and listen to the pronunciations of these greetings at learnsecwepemc.trubox.ca. Scan the QR code below for a quick reference to this helpful resource!



English Word	Secwépemctsín
Hello	Weyt-k (hello to one), weyt-kp (hello to many)
Good morning (traditional Secwepemc "good morning")	Tscwinúcw-k (I'm glad you made it through the night) Tscwinúcw-kp (I'm glad you all made it through the night)
Good morning	Le7 te secwénwen
Good evening	Le7 te sítest
See you	Me7 wíkstsen
See you all later	Me7 wíktlmen
Goodbye	Putúcw
Sleep well and good night (traditional "good night")	Ec k etíucuw
Sleep well and good night all of you	Ec kp etíucuw
Thank you	Kukwstsétsemc (I thank you), Kukwstsétselp (I thank you all), Kukwstéc-kucw (we thank you, singular) Kukwstép-kucw (we thank you all)

Welcome from Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir

Weyt-kp xwexwéytep (hello to everyone). I, Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir, on behalf of Tkemlúps te Secwépemc leadership and membership, am honoured to be welcoming all of you for the 2025 Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference showcasing Indigenous youth leadership training opportunities. We welcome all participants, volunteers, Elders, and staff. Tsecwmítlmen Le7 re swíktlmen pyin te sitqt (I welcome you here and it is good to see you all here today). We are excited to have each of you visiting our unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of Tkemlúps te Secwépemc (TteS).

Within Secwepemcúlecw we occupy a vast territory of B.C.'s Interior stretching from the Columbia River Valley all through the Rocky Mountains, West to the Fraser Valley, South to the Arrow Lakes, and Tkemlúps is our home where the two (2) rivers meet; the North and South Thompson Rivers, a place we are proud to call home. We are one of the 17 First Nations communities that make up Secwepemcúlecw (the Shuswap Nation).

While visiting Tkemlúps, we know you will connect and embrace how we hold our Secwépemc values in the highest regard. Our traditional values have governed our people since time immemorial, nurturing a respectful relationship with the land. Cultural protocols are our ethical principles that inform our behavior and work to protect and maintain our cultural and intellectual property rights. We appreciate and know that our visitors will demonstrate the highest level of respect to our land, Elders, members, and traditional knowledge keepers while you are visiting our home and expect all a positive and memorable experience not to be forgotten.

We have a positive, collaborative, working relationship with the Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society and we know that this conference will be beneficial to all Indigenous youth, providing a lifetime of tools and resources that supports brighter and healthier futures. Here at Tkemlúps, we believe in the lifelong impact this opportunity will have on each of you; you will build confidence for your future leadership roles.

Words I live by and embrace in all that I do is to: "know your passion, visualize your plan, collect your resources, and always be determined to succeed." "Re xyemstéms te tnk'we7 re xyemstéms xwexwéytep te swet." "The honor of one is the honor of all" is wisdom that we all must embody and embrace.

Kukwstsétsemc. It is with great pleasure that I welcome all Indigenous Youth to the Gathering Our Voices 2025 here in Tkemlúps te Secwépemc.

Kukwstsétsemc / Kukwstsétselp/ Kukwstép-kucw.

Yours truly,
Tkemlúps te Secwépemc



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R Casimir".

Kukpi7 Rosanne Casimir (Chief)

Welcome from BCAAFC

My name is Annette Morgan and my traditional name is Nox Stikine. I am honoured to serve our people as the President of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres.

As a proud matriarch from Gitanyow, B.C., it is both an honor and a privilege to host Gathering Our Voices, a conference dedicated to Indigenous youth across our beautiful province. Today, we come together on this territory not just as individuals, but as a collective—a community of young leaders, visionaries, and change-makers.

Gathering Our Voices is a celebration of who we are—a vibrant movement woven from diverse cultures, traditions, and experiences. You, the youth of our communities, are the heart of our future. Your voices matter, your stories are powerful, and your potential is limitless.

As we embark on this journey together over the next few days, I encourage each of you to embrace this opportunity fully. Engage with one another, share your thoughts, and learn from the wisdom of your peers and Elders. Let us lift each other up, support one another, and cultivate the strength that resides within us all.

This gathering is not just about the conversations we have; it's about the actions we take moving forward. Together, we can address the challenges that face our communities and advocate for the changes we wish to see.

As we share, learn, and grow together, remember that you are not alone. We are here for each other, and we are here for our communities. Let us honor our ancestors and the generations to come by ensuring that our voices are heard.

Let's make this gathering a transformative experience.

Annette Morgan
President, BCAAFC



Welcome from Valleyview Secondary

Welcome to Valleyview Secondary School and the Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference.

Our beautiful campus is located in the territory and on the lands of the Tk'emplups te Secwepemc Peoples and we are very proud to host you for this very special event. On behalf of our students and staff, we welcome you to the Gathering Our Voices Conference and hope that you enjoy your time sharing and celebrating the power of Indigenous student voice.

At Valleyview Secondary we take pride with honouring and recognizing the importance of student voice and the subsequent inspiration and empowerment that it brings to all youth.

As you spend time together over the next few days within the many activities and workshops planned, take time to reflect upon your conversations and experiences and know that your voice and actions will be well received when you return to your home communities. This is a great example of how you can use your new knowledge to make a positive difference within your own school and for all of your classmates.

Enjoy your time at VSS with all of your fellow delegates and keynote speakers.

Mr. W. Kirschner
Principal, Valleyview Secondary

Friendship Centres

Supporting Urban Indigenous People and Communities

Friendship Centres are Indigenous-led, non-profit organizations that deliver programs and services to support the health, wellness, and prosperity of Indigenous peoples living in urban communities and away from home. They exist from coast to coast.

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) is the umbrella organization for 25 Friendship Centres located throughout the province. www.bcaafc.com

BCAAFC supports and promotes B.C. Friendship Centres, maintains communication between Friendship Centres, the National Association of Friendship Centres, and our many partners, and supports the development of programs to improve the quality of life for Indigenous people in B.C.

Find us on social media to learn more about what we do.



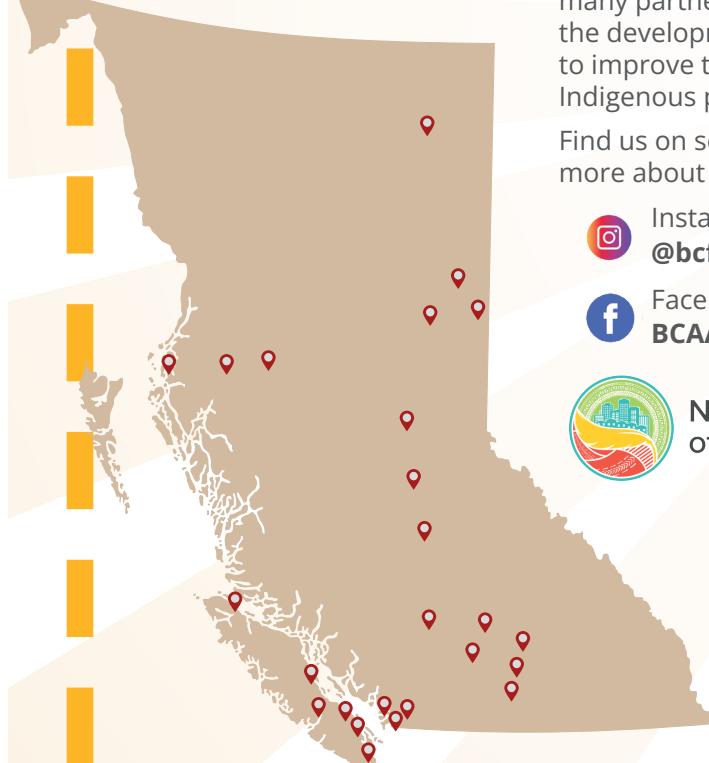
Instagram:
[@bcfriendshipcentres](https://www.instagram.com/bcfriendshipcentres)



Facebook:
[BCAAFC](https://www.facebook.com/bcaafc)



National Association
of Friendship Centres



B.C. Friendship Centres

There are 25 Friendship Centres across B.C. Together they represent over 1,200 employees, 600 partnerships, and 1,000,000 client interactions each year.

Find your local Friendship Centre and get involved!

Cariboo Friendship Society (Williams Lake)
Conayt Friendship Society (Merritt)
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society (Smithers)
Fort Nelson Aboriginal Friendship Society
Fort St. John Friendship Society
Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association (Surrey)
Friendship House Association of Prince Rupert
Hiye'yu Lelum (House of Friendship) Society (Duncan)
Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society
Kermode Friendship Society (Terrace)
Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society (Kelowna)
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society
Mission Friendship Centre Society
Nawican Friendship Centre (Dawson Creek)
North Okanagan Friendship Centre Society (Vernon)
Ooknakane Friendship Centre (Penticton)
Port Alberni Friendship Center
Prince George Native Friendship Centre Society
Quesnel Tillicum Society
Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre Society (Port Hardy)
Tansi Friendship Centre Society (Chetwynd)
Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Society (Nanaimo)
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society
Victoria Native Friendship Centre
Wachiay Friendship Centre Society (Courtenay)

BCAAFC is a proud member of the National Association of Friendship Centres—a network of over 100 Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations, which make up part of the Friendship Centre Movement.

Tk̓wenm7íple7s re Tutwíwt te Qelmúcw ne Xqelmecúlecw Provincial Indigenous Youth Council

The youth voices leading our Movement

The Provincial Indigenous Youth Council (PIYC) is made up of youth ages 14 to 24 who are involved with B.C. Friendship Centres. PIYC represents youth voices at a provincial level and implements initiatives to benefit Indigenous youth. PIYC encourages and supports B.C. Friendship Centres in developing strong local youth councils and acts as the liaison between Friendship Centre youth councils and BCAAFC. They are a kind, creative, and energetic team who are always looking to welcome new members!

The Provincial Indigenous Youth Council is an integral part of planning and designing GOV—like advising on workshop selection and hosting GOV events—to make sure this event reinforces a positive sense of identity for Indigenous youth. Look for PIYC members in their pink shirts or wristbands at GOV and chat with them about everything they do and how you can join PIYC.

You can learn more about our PIYC members at gatheringourvoices.ca/piyc

PRIZE ALERT: Visit the PIYC table in the Rotunda on Tuesday and Wednesday outside the Grand Hall to be entered to win a Nintendo switch.

PIYC will also be doing a daily challenge with more prizes on their Instagram page - [@bcindigenousyouthcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/bcindigenousyouthcouncil)

Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society

The local Friendship Centre is the Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society (KAFS). They provide culturally appropriate programs and inclusive services that meet the needs of Urban Indigenous people so they can become healthier spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. You can learn more about KAFS at <https://kafs.ca>

Share Your Story!

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, in partnership with Strong Circle, is making a digital book with stories and photos about the role of youth in the Friendship Centre Movement.

You are invited to share what matters to you and who you think should hear more from the voices of Indigenous youth in B.C. Help showcase the power of youth through your stories.

Share Your Story opportunities will occur throughout the conference and will focus on the stories of between 10 to 30 youth. If you want to be one of the 30 youth, please send an email to sierra.wells@strongcircle.ca or visit their table at the Exhibitor Fair!

Health & Safety

Staying safe: the ultimate life hack

The health and safety of our delegates is our #1 priority. Each year, BCAAFC staff undergo First Aid and Naloxone Training in preparation of the conference.

Should you need a hand at any time, please reach out to a staff or volunteer. We are always nearby in case you have questions or need a hand.

Group Safety

One of the most common safety issues at GOV is folks getting lost or separated from their group. We encourage you to eat meals with your group and to determine a consistent meeting spot (like the information desk at TRU or the front door of Valleyview) to meet at after events or workshops.

Make sure you have the correct contact information for your group members, that everyone's phone is consistently charged, and check in with each other often.

Substances

GOV is a dry event. We ask participants to avoid the use of any substances while at GOV. If you do use substances, please don't do so alone!

And please talk to a staff member, volunteer, medic, or Cultural Support Worker if you or someone else needs care. Our #1 priority will always be your safety and well-being.

First Aid

We have trained medics on site at GOV all week. There is a First Aid room in the following locations:

- » **TRU: in the Den**
- » **TCC: in the locker rooms**
- » **Valleyview: in rooms 155 and 156**

Many GOV staff, volunteers, and chaperones are also trained in First Aid. If you need help, go to the First Aid room or ask someone in a black, yellow, or green GOV shirt to help you and they can call for a medic.

Letéps re Knúcwmen'

Help Desk

I get by with a little help from my friends

Can't find your workshop? Lost a sweater? Come visit our friendly volunteers at our **Information Desk in the Rotunda at Thompson Rivers University (TRU)**. We'll have a Mllegwentés ell M-penníns (Lost and Found) there and volunteers available to answer your questions.

We will also have a limited number of personal supply items like feminine hygiene products and toothbrushes and deodorant for anyone who forgot some things!

If you are not on site at TRU or need help finding the Letéps re Knúcwmen, you can ask a volunteer (in a green shirt) or a staff member (in a black shirt) and they'll be able to assist you.

GOV 2025 Schedule

TUESDAY	Event	Venue
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration	TRU: Grand Hall
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitors + Artisans	TRU: Rotunda, Mountain, Terrace
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	OPENING CEREMONIES	TCC: Fieldhouse
WEDNESDAY	Event	Venue
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast & Registration	TRU: Grand Hall
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Exhibitors + Artisans	TRU: Rotunda, Mountain, Terrace
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	AUNTY MADDY SHOW	TCC: Fieldhouse
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Break	TRU
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	SCAVENGER HUNT	TRU: Rotunda, Mountain, Terrace
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	TRU: Grand Hall
1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Workshop Block 1	Valleyview/TCC/TRU
2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Break	Valleyview/TCC/TRU
3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Workshop Block 2	Valleyview/TCC/TRU
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Volunteer Appreciation	TRU: Grand Hall
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	TALENT SHOW	Sagebrush Theatre

THURSDAY	Event	Venue
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Valleyview
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Workshop Block 3	Valleyview
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Break	Valleyview
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Block 4 - Pow Wow	Valleyview
12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Valleyview
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Workshop Block 5	Valleyview/TCC/TRU
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Break	Valleyview/TCC/TRU
3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Workshop Block 6	Valleyview/TCC/TRU
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Honouring Feast	TRU: Mountain Room
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	DANCE PARTY	TRU: Grand Hall
7:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.	MOVIE NIGHT	Paramount Theatre
FRIDAY	Event	Venue
7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast	TRU: Grand Hall
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	CLOSING CEREMONIES	TCC: Fieldhouse
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	GREAT GIVEAWAY	TCC: Fieldhouse

Plenary events (everyone *all together*) are noted in **ALL CAPS**.

Colour Codes

I'm feeling blue, like Pantone 292

Tqweltípyle / Delegate
Yecwmíle / Chaperone
Stetex7ém / Elders Council
Élkstmens re Ckwnémíten / Cultural Support
EI7élkstmen / Staff
Provincial Indigenous Youth Council
Knúcwmeń / Volunteer
Sexlítemc / Facilitator
Special Guest
Íkúlmes re C7élksten / Artisan
Tsúnímens re Sxwexwéyt.s re Skúlems / Exhibitor
Videographer/Photographer



Lanyards

Yes—even more colour codes

1: White lanyards. When someone is wearing a white lanyard, it means they consent to being in photos.

2: Orange lanyards. An orange lanyard means they do not want to have their photo taken. Please be respectful of everyone's choices and always ask permission before you take photos or videos of your fellow delegates.

3: Sunflower Lanyard. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower lanyards are a simple tool that anyone at GOV can wear to share that you have a disability or condition that may not be immediately apparent. It also signals that you may need a helping hand, some understanding, or more time and space, particularly in busy, crowded and loud spaces.

We will have lanyards with sunflowers on them at registration for any youth or chaperones who would find self-identifying in this way helpful.

Please note: BCAAF has a photographer and videographer on-site who are well-versed on our lanyard system. We use these photos in our communications materials, social media posts, on our website, and in our reports.

Facilitators, Artisans, Exhibitors, and Vendors are not permitted to take photos of delegates.

Meals at GOV

Fuel up for the fun!

WEDNESDAY	What?	Where?
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast & Registration	TRU: Grand Hall
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch	TRU: Grand Hall
THURSDAY	What?	Where?
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Valleyview
12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Valleyview
FRIDAY	What?	Where?
7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast	TRU: Grand Hall

Scavenger Hunt

Adventure time! (Not the show)

The Scavenger Hunt is a fun opportunity to get familiar with the campus before workshops begin and to check out some of the Indigenous art around campus. Bring your group and programmes and collect all the stamps. Once your TRU map is full, show it to the volunteers at the Help Desk to be entered to win a prize!

Location: Around Thompson Rivers University – grab your first clue at the Help Desk in the Rotunda.

Hours: Wednesday 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Prizes: We are giving away three gorgeous GOV-branded speakers to delegates who complete the scavenger hunt.

Parking (or lack thereof)

Park it like its hot, park it like its hot

Parking is limited at our GOV 2025 venues (we only have parking reserved for Elders and special guests).

Classes are still in session at TRU and **parking is exceptionally difficult on campus**. We highly recommend you leave the car at your hotel.

Busses (GOV shuttles)

🎵 Round, round, get around, you get around 🎵

Each morning and evening, we will have multiple busses doing routes from our GOV venues to our hotel blocks.

Whether you're cutting it close for breakfast at TRU or need to get to a workshop, our busses will make sure you arrive.

Please see the enclosed bus schedule for more information. A copy of the schedule is also available in the GOV app and at gatheringourvoices.ca/venue.

Volunteer (while at GOV)

Good Vibes, Good Deeds

If you are 18+ and would like to volunteer while you are at the event, we would be thrilled to have you join us!

You can sign up in the Volunteer Rooms at TRU or Valleyview High School or email.volunteers@bcaafc.com.

- » TRU Volunteer Room in The Den
- » Valleyview Room 122

Please note: Chaperones may not volunteer as we expect you will be busy assisting your delegates.

Venue Maps

🎵 Wait! They don't love you like I love you 🎵

Valleyview Secondary School



CAC & Independent Centre First Floor



1

2

3

4

5

6

SCAVENGER HUNT STAMPS

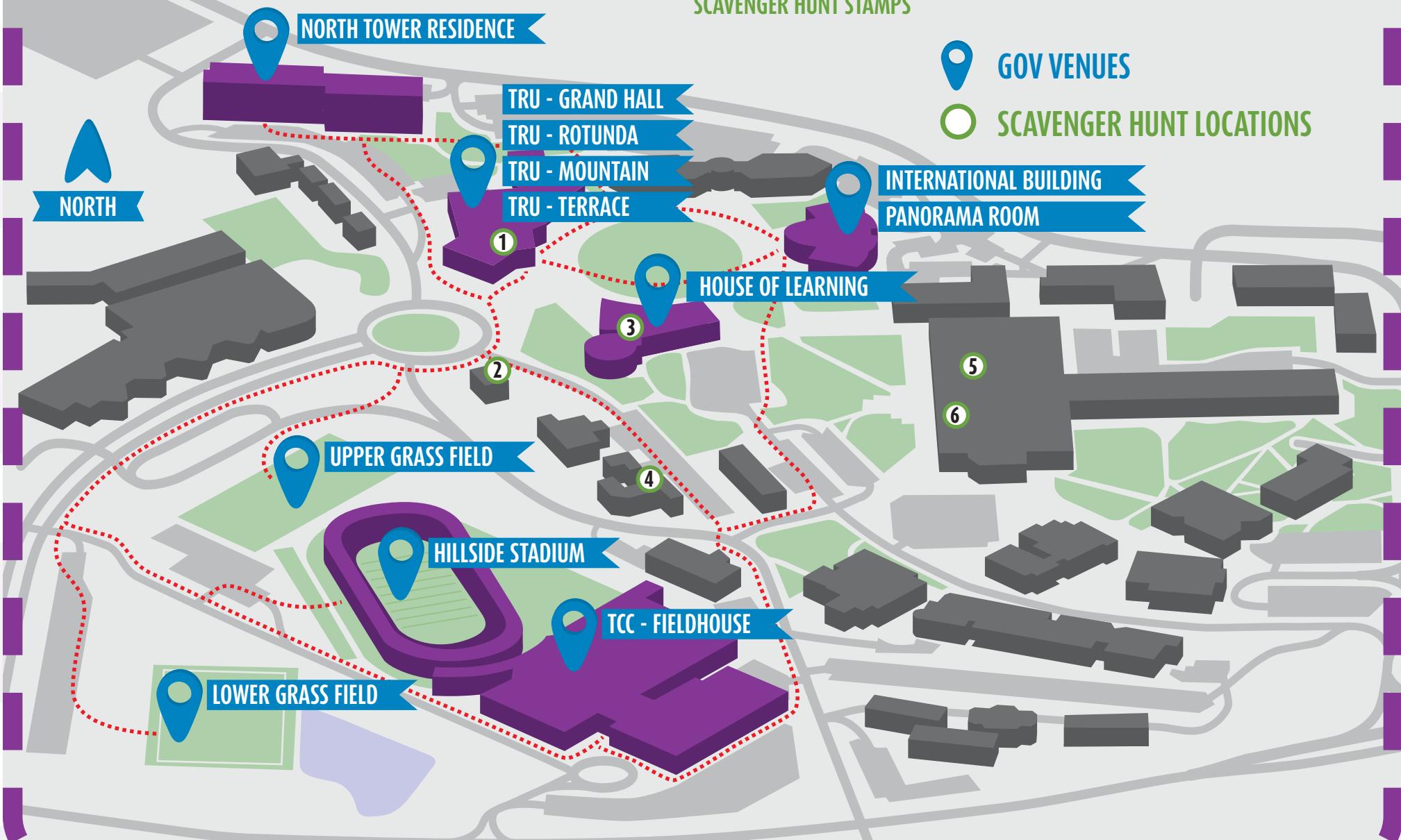
Thompson Rivers University (TRU)



GOV VENUES



SCAVENGER HUNT LOCATIONS



Tsecwmíntlemt Ne7élye es Melkwentwécw Opening Ceremonies

🎵 Let's get it started in here 🎵

Each year, we design the Opening Ceremonies to honour the culture and protocols of our host Nation and properly welcome you onto the territory. Door prizes, entertainment, and words of welcoming are all included so you can start the week feeling connected and like you're exactly where you're supposed to be – because you are!

Location: Tournament Capital Centre (TCC) Fieldhouse

Hours: Tuesday 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Tsúñmens re Sxwexwéyt.s re S7élkst.s Exhibitor Fair

The Tsúñmens re Sxwexwéyt.s re S7élkst.s is adjacent to the Ctméllcws ri7 ne S7elkst.s. It is an opportunity for youth to learn about the different initiatives and organizations and connect with potential future employers!

Location: TRU Rotunda, Mountain Room, and Terrace

Hours: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PRIZE ALERT! Delegates who visit exhibitors and complete a BINGO will be entered to win a PS5. BINGO sheets will be available at the fair. Ask a volunteer for help!

Ctméllcws ri7 ne S7elkst.s Artisan Market

There is no such thing as owning too many earrings

Treat yourself at our Ctméllcws ri7 ne S7elkst.s! We have handpicked some of our favourite Indigenous artisans who are ready to wow you with their handmade products at a variety of price points. For the first time, you'll be able to check out the vendors right after you register at GOV!

Location: TRU Rotunda, Mountain Room, and Terrace

Hours: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Check out the full list of vendors on our website:
gatheringourvoices.ca/vendors

Cméllelcten The Chill Zone

The den of zen—colour, meditate, or just stare at the wall

The Cméllelcten serves as a sanctuary for any GOV attendees seeking a safe place, peace, and/or some quiet during GOV. It has been curated with the intention of providing attendees with a peaceful environment where they can participate in crafting, drawing, or find a spot to take a nap during GOV.

Locations: TRU Summit Room
TCC Spin Room *
Valleyview Library

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(closes at noon on Friday)

* Only during Opening and Closing Ceremonies

C7elksténs re Sknúcwmeńs ne Ckwnémítén Cultural Support Room

You are not alone and you are worthy of care

C7elksténs re Sknúcwmeńs ne Ckwnémítén is a safe space to step away and receive cultural supports for any reason. Here you can connect with trained Indigenous counsellors from Tsow-Tun Le Lum.

They will be wearing yellow name badges and are well-prepared to support anyone in culturally safe ways and will be offering traditional medicine.

You can also ask any staff (in black shirts) or volunteers (in green shirts) for help and they will connect you with someone who can provide you with the support you need. And you can always visit the Elders Room at any time to have a chat and a rest.

If you see someone else needing help, look for First Aid workers or the folks in yellow, purple, black or green GOV shirts.

Location 1: TRU Alpine Room

Tuesday	9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location 2: Valleyview Room 102

Wednesday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Stex7emcwéllcw Elders Room

The sleeper hit of GOV 2024—don't miss out!

Stop by the Stex7emcwéllcw to connect with members of the BCAAFC Elder's Council (Marge, Buzz, Wally, and Stan) as well as Elders from the Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society and the local community.

The Stex7emcwéllcw is a quiet, safe space to sit, chat, or learn about traditional teachings, crafts, and practices. Youth can visit whenever they want or need. The Elders are here to support you and they are very happy to do so. Make sure to stop by and say hello!

Visiting Elders are also welcome to visit the room and spend time eating, talking, or resting.

Location 1: TRU Alpine Room

Tuesday	9:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location 1: Valleyview Room 104

Wednesday	1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In Secwépemctsín, Elder (singular) is “**Stetex7ém**” and Elders (plural) is “**Stetex7é7em**”. You can say “**Weyt-k**” (hello) to a Stetex7ém or “**weyt-kp**” to multiple Stetex7é7em!

Tqeqelltén Entertainers

The hype is real

Each year, PIYC and BCAAFC work together to select a mix of talented Indigenous tqeqelltén and inspiring speakers.

GOV 2025 features range of entertainers—from up-and-coming artists like 15-year-old James Vickers to returning favourites like DJ Kookum and Madeline McCallum.

» Madeline McCallum	@madelainemccallum
» Vance Banzo	@vancebanzo
» Mattmac	@mattmaconline
» Hayley Wallis	@hayleycwallis
» James Vickers	
» Zero Whonnock	
» The Coastal Drifters	@coastaldrifters
» Sheri Marie Ptolemy	@sheriptolemymusic
» DJ Handsome Tiger	@handsome.tiger
» Sage Hills	
» All My Relations	
» DJ Kookum	@djkookum

You can find their social media links and bios at gatheringourvoices.ca/entertainment

Due to capacity constraints, GOV Events are reserved for youth delegates and chaperones. Exhibitors, entertainers, and workshop facilitators are welcome to attend in a volunteer capacity but must register to do so ahead of time.

Volunteer Appreciation Night Tsxlítemcs re Sxyemstém-kucw re Kenknúcwmén'

Acknowledging the heart and hustle

Volunteers are an integral part of GOV and a huge part of what makes GOV so successful every year. To show our gratitude for all their hard work, volunteers are invited to join us for a celebration with entertainment and delicious food to show our appreciation.

Location TRU Grand Hall

Hours Wednesday 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PRIZE ALERT! Volunteers who attend this event will be entered to win an iPad.



Me7 Tsúñmentem re Le7 te Tsúwet.s-kucw Talent Show

Show up and show out!

Are you a dancer? A singer? A magician? Can you juggle bananas? Perhaps you've got another dazzling skill up your sleeve? Well, this is your time to shine! Step into the limelight and register for the GOV talent show.

Every year, we roll out the GOV red carpet and give youth the chance to showcase their talents in a supportive, lively, and loving space.

To perform at the talent show, you need to register ahead of time in the GOV app by signing up for the Talent Show Workshop. The workshop is mandatory and will help prepare you for the event with singer-songwriter Jodie B. She will help ensure that you feel supported and ready to take on the big stage!

Please note: Outside food and beverages are not permitted at the Sagebrush Theatre.

Location Sagebrush Theatre

Hours Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Transport Our private bus shuttles will pick delegates and chaperones up from our hotel blocks and take them to the theatre and back to the hotels. Please see the enclosed bus schedule for bus times and pick-up locations.

PRIZE ALERT! Youth who perform at the Me7 Tsúñmentem re Le7 te Tsúwet.s-kucw will be entered to win a laptop!

Pow wow

Celebrating Indigenous culture and heritage

Kamloops is known for its Kamloopa Pow wow, which Tkemlúps te Secwépemc has been hosting every summer for more than 40 years. So, it was crucial for us to host a mini pow wow just for GOV attendees! Join us at Valleyview High School for a fun time filled with music and activities.

Location Valleyview High School East Gym

Hours Thursday 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Tsexlítemcs Honouring Feast

The Tsexlítemcs is our way of showing youth who identify as having had an "in care" experience that we love them and care about their wellbeing. This is a safe space for youth to share a special meal together and receive gifts. You are strong, resilient, and loved and we want to celebrate you.

Please note: This is a ticketed event. Youth need to self-identify in their registration as being a Tuwíwt te necwmeníle (youth in care) or having been in care to attend. Chaperones are not required to attend but are welcome to attend should their youth ask for their support or company.

Location TRU Mountain Room

Hours Thursday 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Transport We will have a shuttle departing from Valleyview and going to TRU for those attending.

PRIZE ALERT! Youth who attend the Tsexlítemcs will be entered to win an XBOX.

Me7 Qwyilc-kt! Dance Party

Move and groove (repeat as necessary)

The Me7 Qwyilc-kt! is a substance-free event with yummy snacks, great music, cultural supports, and a designated Chill Zone. Delegates of all ages are welcome to participate!

Safety is our top priority, both at the Me7 Qwyilc-kt! and throughout GOV. All patrons attending the Me7 Qwyilc-kt! **must follow these simple rules:**

- » All attendees **must have a visible GOV wristband** to enter the event.
- » Entrance doors close at 8:30 p.m. — **no ins and outs**.
- » Groups must arrive and leave as a group (no leaving delegates unattended, even those over 18). **Groups will be asked to check in and check** out to ensure all members are present and accounted for before heading back to their hotel. Groups that include people under 18 must have a chaperone present.
- » **No substance use.**
- » No external food or drinks (water and snacks will be provided).

Youth and chaperones will have the option to keep their bags with them or leave them securely at the coat and bag check. **All bags, purses, and packs are subject to being searched.**

Location TRU Grand Hall

Hours Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Transport Our shuttles will pick up delegates and chaperones from our hotel blocks and take them to TRU and back after the Me7 Qwyilc-kt!. Please see the enclosed bus schedule for bus times and pick-up locations.

Spiqws te Sítést Movie Night

This is where the REEL fun happens 🎬

Forgot your dancing shoes? Need a quiet evening? Groups can skip the Me7 Qwyilc-kt! (Dance Party) and join us for a Spiqws te Sítést instead. Popcorn and a drink will be provided. Check our social media for the movie title!

Please note: The film may contain depictions of suicide, substance abuse, crude and misogynistic language.

Please note: Delegates under 18 must attend the movie night with their chaperone.

Location The Paramount Theatre

Hours Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Transport Our private bus shuttles will pick delegates and chaperones up from our hotel blocks (or TRU if they attended the Honouring Feast) and take them to the theatre and back to the hotels. Please see the enclosed bus schedule for bus times and pick-up locations.

Due to capacity constraints, GOV Events are reserved for youth delegates and chaperones. Exhibitors, entertainers, and workshop facilitators are welcome to attend in a volunteer capacity but must register to do so ahead of time.

Yerí7 re Stsukws es Melkwentwécw Closing Ceremonies

Not goodbye, just see you later

Join your GOV friends and family as we reflect on and celebrate an amazing week together! We will take time to offer thanks for the hard work that goes into GOV, give away some awesome door prizes, and close this year's event in a good way—honouring the ways of our host Nations.

Location TCC Fieldhouse

Hours Friday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Please note: The Indian Residential School Survivors Society will be attending the Closing Ceremonies to support survivors and families experiencing intergenerational trauma.

Indian Residential School Survivors Society

The Indian Residential School Survivors Society is a provincial non-profit organization that provides essential services to residential school survivors and families experiencing intergenerational trauma.

- » 2SLGBTQIA+ Support
- » Cultural & Elder Support
- » Support for Families Impacted by MMIWG
- » Emotional Support & Crisis Counselling
- » 24/7 Crisis Line 1.800.721.0066



Xyum-kucw es Kectúlemt Great Giveaway

Something to remember us by

This year, the highly anticipated Xyum-kucw es Kectúlemt event will continue as the finale during the week of activities at GOV. Immediately following the closing ceremonies, GOV youth delegates will have the opportunity to attend the Xyum-kucw es Kectúlemt and select a gift to take home. Gifts include sporting equipment, art supplies, puzzles, books, and more.

Please follow the direction of staff and volunteers during this event.

Every youth delegate will have an opportunity to pick **no more than one item** to take home during the Xyum-kucw es Kectúlemt.

Please note: If you are taking a larger item, please check-in with your chaperone to see if you have the space to travel back home with the larger item.

Location: TCC Fieldhouse

Hours: Friday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Crisis Text & Phone Lines

KUU-US Crisis Line Society - 24-hour crisis line for Indigenous people across B.C. Youth number: **250-723-2040** or toll free at **1-800-588-8717**.

Hope for Wellness Help Line - Online chat available in Cree, Ojibway, Inuktitut, English, and French at hopeforwellness.ca or 24/7 telephone at **1-855-242-3310**.

VictimLinkBC - A free, confidential, multilingual service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call or text **1-800-563-0808** or email 211-VictimLinkBC@uwcs.ca

Suicide Crisis Help Line - A safe space to talk, 24/7 every day of the year. Call **988** or text **988**.

Crisis Text Line - Text **HOME** to **741741** to connect with a Crisis Counselor. Free confidential 24/7 support.

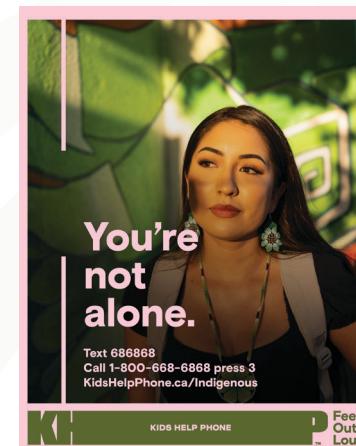
Kids Help Phone - 24/7

Free, 24/7, and confidential mental health services for all young people—including Indigenous youth—across Canada. A non-judgmental space to get help through phone, text, and online resources in English, French and some Indigenous languages.

Text **686868**

Call **1-800-668-6868** press 3

KidsHelpPhone.ca/Indigenous



GOV 2025 Sponsors

Thank you for helping to make GOV happen



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