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**Trent University  
Strategic Research  
Plan**

*Approved by Senate, May 26, 2000*

### **The Importance of Research at Trent:**

Throughout the world, research and scholarship are recognized as central to the role and function of universities, and research in particular is viewed as having inherent benefits to society. Research in universities drives innovation, stimulates the creation of new knowledge, and is the foundation for a vibrant, growing, civil society and an economically strong country.

Trent University identifies the conduct of high calibre research and scholarship as a fundamental element of its mission as an autonomous Canadian institution of higher learning. Research at Trent is linked with teaching, both undergraduate and graduate, and is identified in the University's Mission Statement:

"Within a collegial setting the university offers undergraduate and graduate programs, both traditional and inter-disciplinary, which seek to advance learning through the creative interaction of teaching and research of the highest quality."

Reference to the importance of research occurs multiple times in the University's Statement of Goals, and it is also highlighted in the Institutional Objectives (Trent University Calendar 2000-2001:6). Finally, the importance of research by Trent faculty is emphasized in the Collective Agreement between the University and the Trent University Faculty Association. For example, criteria for the awarding of tenure include the requirement of "demonstrated high quality in both teaching and research..."; and promotion to the rank of Full Professor is "based on both teaching and research...." A Professional Expenses Fund, to support research, is included in the terms of the Collective Agreement, and paid Sabbatical Leaves, "for purposes of research and scholarly development", are awarded to permanent faculty by the university.

### **Research Activity at Trent:**

Trent University has consistently ranked among the top universities in Canada in per capita research funding and major faculty research awards. The many excellent research programs of Trent faculty have resulted in significant recognition by, and funding from, each of the major Canadian research granting agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, and MRC). In 1998-1999, Trent faculty attracted over \$5.5 million dollars in external research funding (all sources), nearly double the levels of five years ago.

In recent years, Trent faculty have also been awarded prestigious national, and international, research fellowships (e.g., Premier's Research

Excellence Awards, Killam, Guggenheim, and Fulbright Fellowships) and spearheaded major research infrastructure projects (supported by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund) and development projects (supported by the Canadian International Development Agency, Ford Foundation). Three major research professorships (NSERC-Industry Chairs) have been established with government and private sector funding. Despite its relatively young age, the university has more elected members of the nation's oldest academy to honor distinguished scholars, the Royal Society of Canada, than any other institution of its size in the country.

Within the University, research is concentrated in dozens of different academic departments and programs, undergraduate and graduate, covering the full range of scholarship, as well as in an array of research centres, institutes, and research groups (Appendix A: Graduate Programs at Trent; Appendix B: Research Institutes/Centres/Groups at Trent). Graduate studies, offered at the masters and doctoral levels, are all research-focused, thesis-based programs. Each of these advanced degree programs is regularly appraised through external assessment overseen by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS); each graduate student thesis/dissertation at Trent is defended before an examining committee, which includes at least one expert authority external to the University.

Scholarly investigations are supported at Trent through a range of University funding programs adjudicated by peer-review through the Committees on Research (Social Sciences and Humanities, and Natural Sciences). Special funds provided by SSHRC to Trent, through the Aid to Small Universities (ASU) Program grant, support inter-disciplinary research projects and centres. The University sponsors annual Research Days (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences), competitions for internal Research Fellowships, International Travel Grants, and a prestigious Distinguished Research Award (presented each year at Convocation). Research within the region, and community, is encouraged and seen as an institutional strength. The University also has established a number of important research partnerships and agreements with provincial government research agencies (e.g. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Royal Ontario Museum), federal government research groups (e.g. Health Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Indian Affairs, Environment Canada, Parks Canada), and other Canadian universities and colleges (Arctic College, Durham College, University of Guelph, University of New Brunswick, Queens University, Sir Sandford Fleming College, University of Toronto). Trent has cultivated collaborative research partnerships with a range of corporations in the private sector, especially with the chemical and petrochemical industry (e.g., Ciba-Geigy, Dow Chemical, Dupont, Imperial Oil, Lever Brothers, Monsanto, Proctor and Gamble, Union Carbide), the mining industry (e.g., Inco, Lakefield Research, Noranda), power industry (Ontario Hydro, now Ontario Power Generation), and technical instrumentation industry (e.g., Beckman/Coulter Instruments, Micromass Canada, Milltronics). Many of these partners have participated in funding three NSERC-Industry research chairs over the past 5 years. Through its support of faculty, research centres, and graduate programs, the University attracts visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows to campus each year, further enhancing opportunities for research collaboration and inter-institutional partnerships.

## **Principles for Research at Trent:**

Given the centrality of research to its mission, Trent University values and strives for:

- excellence in research (peer-reviewed, high caliber, with national and international recognition);
- a diversity of research (across the full range of scholarly disciplines at Trent, and of either a basic or applied nature);
- an emphasis on interdisciplinary research (with cooperation between members of different departments/programs/disciplines/centres/institutions);
- responsible provision of resources for the proper conduct of research (infrastructure, staff, space, etc.);
- the involvement of its students in research, and training of highly qualified personnel;
- open, accountable research (honest, ethical, and open to public scrutiny)
- Strategic Research Plan (Development, Objectives, and Priority Areas):

Trent University acknowledges that all faculty research is valued and important to its overall mission. It recognizes that advanced, high-calibre research occurs in many different fields at Trent, reflecting much of the array of human knowledge and scholarship which exists today. Trent places importance on these individual scholarly accomplishments. It also recognizes that it is incumbent on the University to differentiate itself from other similar institutions, to identify specific areas in which it intends to conduct internationally-acclaimed research, and around which areas it will expand its research capacity. The Strategic Research Plan was developed to facilitate this process.

In order to establish a Strategic Research Plan, the Vice President-Academic appointed an advisory committee in February, 2000, composed primarily of senior academic colleagues drawn from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences areas (Appendix C: Institutional Consultation Process). The advisory committee, called the Research Planning Group, met privately and consulted widely within the University community, through a series of meetings with disciplinary caucuses, the Trent research and graduate studies committees, Faculty Board (composed of Chairs of all academic departments and programs), and Senate (the senior academic governing body of the University). Advice and views of faculty were solicited broadly, and incorporated wherever possible.

Based on these discussions, a set of major objectives of the Strategic Research Plan of Trent University were established:

- strengthen the interdisciplinary research activities of the University, for which Trent is already well known;
- build on areas of recognized institutional research strengths that are prominent at, or unique to, Trent among Canadian universities;
- identify and support new, emerging areas of research concentration, to which additional resources will be devoted on a priority basis with the

- long-range objective of creating new institutional centres of research excellence;
- provide (and reward) improved research training opportunities for Trent students (undergraduate and graduate); and
  - maintain and enhance the outstanding research reputation (as repeatedly identified in national university rankings) of the University.
  - make a significant contribution to the quality of life of Canadians.

From the consultation process, the University identified a set of strategic research areas for planned institutional development between 2000-2005. Such enhancement includes the allocation of a number of research professorships, to be held by outstanding scholars (junior and senior levels) and funded through the new Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program of the federal government. The eight (8) research clusters are (in alphabetical order):

- Archaeological Studies
- Canadian Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Environmental and Natural Resource Studies
- Health Studies
- International Studies
- Native Studies
- Quantitative Modelling Studies

Over the next five years we expect to make eight CRC appointments, three at the senior (Tier 1) level, and five at the junior (Tier 2) level. There is likely to be a mix of appointments, including outstanding internal candidates as well as researchers from other institutions. All appointments will be made in areas related to these research clusters.

Each of these research clusters is described below, highlighting selected examples of specific research foci, activities, training strengths, inter-institutional partnerships, and achievements in scholarship.

### **Archaeological Studies**

Archaeology has been a prominent research area at Trent virtually since the start of the University with the establishment of the Department of Anthropology in 1965, by faculty experts in the archaeology of Canada. In 1975, the University initiated a unique M.A. program in Anthropology, with a specialization in Precolumbian art, archaeology, and ethnohistory of the Americas. Trent archaeologists have conducted landmark investigations of several major prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in Ontario, including Ste. Marie-Among-the-Huron, Peterborough Petroglyphs, and the Serpent Mounds, and edited the journal, Ontario Archaeology at Trent. The very successful Masters program, the oldest at Trent, has produced nearly 100 graduates, many of whom have gone on for doctoral research and are now leading authorities in archaeology in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Archaeological Research Centre (TUARC), located in a special building on the Symons campus of Trent, is dedicated to the investigations and understanding of past cultures through studies of artifacts, analysis of field, laboratory, and archival data, and the education of students

and interested community members, by courses, publications, and lectures. Archaeological research facilities at Trent include specialized laboratories/resource rooms for: Andean archaeology, Bioarchaeology, Mesoamerican archaeology, Ontario archaeology, Paleo-DNA, Precolumbian art, and Zooarchaeology. During the past 20 years Trent archaeological research, by faculty and graduate students alike, has expanded to include investigations of dozens of sites in Canada, as well as many other countries (e.g., Antigua, Belize, Botswana, Ecuador, Honduras, Italy, Nicaragua, and Peru). Archaeological research has been reinforced at Trent through special linkages with the Royal Ontario Museum (R.O.M.), the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Parks Canada and, on the international front, with the Belize Department of Archaeology, Institute of Andean Research (United States), National Institute of Culture (Peru), National Institute of Cultural Heritage (Ecuador), and the National Museum of Antigua and Barbuda. In recent years this strategic research area has attracted three (3) SSHRC Postdoctoral fellowship holders. Collectively, in the past decade, eight faculty in the archaeology area have attracted over \$650,000 in external research grants, primarily from SSHRC, published 19 books (authored or edited), and over 120 book chapters and articles in refereed works.

### **Canadian Studies**

Research activity in this area reflects the particular interests of the founding president of Trent University, Prof. T.H.B. Symons, in Canadian Studies. It is an established area of research strength. Trent offers an undergraduate degree in Canadian Studies (one of the first in Canada). At the graduate level, there is a M.A. in Canadian Studies and Native Studies offered since 1986. Trent has also submitted a proposal to the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) for the creation of a new (joint) Ph.D. in Canadian Studies (with Carleton University). We anticipate a (positive) decision this Spring, and are planning for acceptance of first Canadian Studies doctoral students in 2001. The proposed doctoral program identifies the following research fields: Canadian culture, literature and arts; Environment and heritage; Policy, economy and society; Identities; and Women's Studies. There is considerable research depth in each field. In addition to offering advanced degree programs, the University has a long-established Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Native Studies, an active and well-funded research institute which coordinates and sponsors an impressive array of research activities, lectures, and publication projects, covering this broad area. Some of the funding for this research is derived from the SSHRC Aid to Small Universities (ASU) program, Centre endowment funds, and from the Symons Trust Fund for Canadian Studies, established in 1998. Trent is also home to the highly regarded Journal of Canadian Studies, begun in 1966. The JCS is a SSHRC-sponsored, peer refereed publication, pre-eminent in the field, with over 1200 subscribers in forty different countries around the world, and publishing over 45 articles a year on all aspects of Canadian Studies. Each July, the University welcomes the "Summer Explorations in Canadian Culture" (SECC), a multi-disciplinary research and education program that investigates Canada's rich social, political, and cultural diversity and draws students and researchers from across Canada and abroad to Trent. In recent years, Trent faculty in this area have held Canada-U.S. Fulbright Awards, for studies of 19th Century Canadian Literature, and another for studies of Canadian labour and industrial relations. Last year, another faculty member was awarded a Killam

Research Fellowship for research on 19th Century Canadian social and economic history. Several researchers have received accolades for their publications, including one scholar whose research focus on Canadian working class and women's history was awarded the Harold Adams Innis Award from the HSSFC for best book of the year in Canada in the social sciences. Another historian, who specializes in Canadian relations with Latin America, recently won the University Press of the South book award for his analysis of Canadian and U.S. foreign relations with Argentina. Two flagship "complete works" editorial projects on two important Canadian authors (A.M. Klein and E.J. Pratt) are based at Trent. Both projects are large scale, funded by SSHRC, and important for Canadian literary history. The University also has a strong research record in Northern Studies, and support for research and guest lectures is provided through the endowed Northern Chair Fund. Trent has been involved in arctic research (through a variety of science and social science projects) for over 25 years, and has a special teaching-research linkage with Arctic College in Nunavut. Trent has offered a unique undergraduate emphasis program in Northern Studies since 1994, is a member of the Association for Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, and received significant research funding from the Northern Science Training Grants program. For many years the University has been the focus of an array of Canadian regional (and bioregional) studies, including investigations related to the art, history, literature, culture, and environment of the Trent Valley, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough, and Haliburton highlands. Last year the University began an experimental research project called the Centre for Community Based Education (TCCBE), which encourages local research opportunities, through study internships, for students (undergraduate and graduate) who are supervised by Trent faculty. The project has evolved into a proposal for a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) program of SSHRC. Included in these regional studies is an emerging research emphasis related to Canadian natural and cultural heritage, parks, and travel studies. There are an estimated 11 faculty members associated with this research area who currently hold, or recently have held, SSHRC (or other major external) funding for research. One member of faculty in this area is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

## **Cultural Studies**

Trent has developed a core of scholars with an interdisciplinary research focus on modern and contemporary culture. Drawing from such fields as media, literature, and the arts, semiotics, communications, social, political and cultural theory, hermeneutics, philosophy, and the history of science, religion, and the sociology of culture, Trent faculty, both in teaching and research, have pioneered in this young and rapidly evolving area. The Cultural Studies program, which recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary with an international conference "Cultural Studies at the Millennium", was the first to offer such an undergraduate degree in North America. At the graduate level, with faculty from Cultural Studies, Philosophy, English, Politics, Sociology, and four other departments, an innovative interdisciplinary M.A. in Methodologies for the Study of Western History and Culture was established in 1989. This led, recently, to the establishment of the Centre for the Study of Theory, Culture and Politics to advance research and scholarship under this broad rubric. The Centre supports a wide network of scholars in the humanities and social sciences. Aided by SSHRC grants from the Aid to Small Universities Program, the Centre has developed a highly active roster of visiting speakers, faculty-

student seminars, symposia, and conferences, as well as providing seed support for particular research projects in domains that range from comparative religion and performance theory to visual semiotics. In the past five years, more than 50 distinguished scholars have visited the Centre (and the Methodologies graduate program) as speakers and research collaborators. Centre faculty have also organized several international conferences, funded by SSHRC and others. Also affiliated with this area is the Institute for the Study of Popular Culture (TISPOC), which runs its own periodic conferences, an annual speaker series, and has a significant collection of popular culture materials. Trent has notable strengths also in the area of science fiction studies, whose leading English-language journal currently has several Trent faculty on the editorial board, and in the crossover area between communications, linguistics, and aesthetics. This year a SSHRC-sponsored conference on music and sonic environments is being held by the University. High quality publications and the wider dissemination of research have been strongly encouraged by this stimulating environment. Last year, four faculty in this area held external fellowships and visitorships at major universities, including one Trent researcher who was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship at New York University for investigations of sexuality and Victorian literature. Faculty at Trent in Cultural Studies and related research areas publish in, and are editorially associated with, leading Cultural Studies journals, including *Telos*, *Theory, Culture and Society*, *Critical Inquiry*, *The Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory (C-Theory)*, *Angelaki*, and *Science Fiction Studies*. There are an estimated 11 faculty associated with this research area who currently hold, or have recently held, SSHRC funding for research.

### **Environmental and Natural Resource Studies**

Trent has an extremely active research program in this broad area, with an excellent and well established record of research funding, and a history of working with the private sector and government agencies on both environmental and natural resource management issues. Trent offers an undergraduate degree in Environmental and Resource Studies, and both a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Watershed Ecosystems, both housed in a \$15 million Environmental Science Building which opened in 1991. In addition to degree programmes available in this area, the University has established several advanced research groups including the: Water Quality Centre (with new CFI and ORDCF funding), the Oliver Ecological Centre (also with new CFI and ORDCF funding), the Watershed Science Centre (a collaborative research group composed of scientists from Trent, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources [OMNR], and Sir Sanford Fleming College), the Canadian Environmental Modelling Centre, the Trent University Institute for Mass Spectroscopy (TUIMS), and the Wildlife Forensic DNA Centre (also in cooperation with the OMNR). Over \$2.5 million in new infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund (ORDCF) to Trent has expanded and significantly improved Trent's analytical capabilities in this area. Research strength in environmental science is evident from the establishment of three (3) NSERC-Industry Research Chairs since 1995 (two in environmental modelling, and one in biogeochemistry), and receipt of a Premier's Research Excellence Award (PREA) in 1999 by a faculty member specializing in studies of mercury in the environment and in fish. The University is home to the highly regarded journal *Environmental Reviews*, an NRC-sponsored publication. With the physical move of a dozen OMNR senior

science staff to the Trent campus in 1998, collaboration in resource studies between provincial government specialists and Trent faculty has expanded significantly, and promises to be a growth area in the next decade. The University has worked closely with OMNR in the development of research expertise and training in Geographical Information Systems (GIS), forensic DNA research, and natural resources management and development in Canada and abroad. Indeed, in 1996, Trent was chosen by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to spearhead a major (Tier 1) environment and resource management project (called INSTRUCT) in Ecuador and Mexico. This has enhanced the university's international reputation in these fields (see also International Studies, below). Trent has special strengths in studies of toxicology, the fate of contaminants in the environment and uptake of these by aquatic organisms, ecological processes and ecosystem structure, physical and chemical environmental processes, environmental change and monitoring, environmental modelling, hydrology and geomorphology, environmental measurement, research on water quality, as well as on policy studies related to the environment. In regard to the latter, a new Environmental Policy Institute has been proposed for 2000-01. In addition, scientists at Trent have established, with colleagues at two other universities, an international humanitarian initiative to develop a new technology detector of anti-personnel landmines, to help create a safer physical environment in those parts of the globe which have endured recent military conflicts. Finally, the University has been working since 1998, on creating closer and new research linkages between faculty in Environmental Studies and Native Studies (see Canadian and Native Studies), and recognizes considerable potential for unique future collaboration and partnerships on the research interface between the sciences and aboriginal "traditional knowledge" regarding environmental issues. There are an estimated 19 faculty associated with this research area who currently hold NSERC or SSHRC funding for research. There are three members of faculty in this area who are fellows of the Royal Society of Canada.

## **Health Studies**

There is an emerging research emphasis at Trent in the area of Health Studies. The faculty are concentrated primarily in the undergraduate departments of Biology (which offers a Health Studies emphasis) and Psychology, but with strong interests also found among economists, sociologists, cultural geographers, and physical and cultural anthropologists. At the graduate level, Trent offers a unique M.A./M.Sc. in Applications of Modelling in the Natural and Social Sciences, reflective of its truly interdisciplinary history and approach. The program includes a number of active researchers with a health research focus, especially in Psychology, who employ quantitative modelling techniques. The University has received significant SSHRC, NSERC, MRC, Health Canada, Environmental Canada, and private sector funding for faculty investigations of aging and mental health, studies of sleep disorders, coping behaviour, emotional intelligence, and attention-deficit disorders, and toxic substances of the human and natural environment. For the past five years, the University has sponsored a collaborative Health Research Group (HRG), composed of faculty drawn from nearly a dozen departments. The HRG has organized and hosted regional conferences for health care professionals, showcasing research at Trent. Trent faculty with health research interests have been awarded a Premier's Research Excellence Award (1999-Psychology), and a CFI-New Opportunities Award (2000-Chemistry) to enhance their research

programs through improved infrastructure. The University operates one of Ontario's few University-based animal research facilities, largely for health-linked research, including embryonic studies, memory research, and investigations of brain function, and a specialized Sleep Research Laboratory. Recently, a Brain Behaviour and Cognitive Science Research Group has been established (specializing in neuropsychology, neurobiology, and neuroelectrophysiology), as well as a new Center for Psychometric Research (closely linked with the Modelling graduate program and Psychology undergraduate program). University faculty are collaborating with neighbouring Sir Sandford Fleming College in the design of their new Institute for Healthy Aging, and have been invited by the College to utilize the planned facility (scheduled opening 2003) for gerontological research. The University and College already collaborate on a joint Nursing program, whose expansion is presently under review. A number of researchers in the Environmental sciences area have been recently funded by Health Canada and Environmental Canada, through the TSRI program, to study the effects of hazardous substances in the environment and their (potential) impact on human health. Finally, Trent has an emerging research expertise related to aboriginal health and wellness, traditional indigenous medicine, and environment-linked health issues (see Environmental and Natural Resource Studies, and Native Studies). There are an estimated 13 faculty associated with this research area who currently have NSERC MRC, or SSHRC funding for research.

### **International Studies**

Like Health Studies, there is an emerging, and growing, research strength at Trent in International Studies. Strategic research foci lie in international political economy, international economic development, and the human and cultural dimensions of globalization. Researchers under this rubric are drawn from a wide variety of disciplines including Anthropology, Comparative Development Studies, Economics, Environmental and Resource Studies, History, Native Studies, and Political Studies. The University has operated an African Studies Research Group for many years. A new International Political Economy Centre is currently being established, combining expertise on financial, economic, political, and environmental dimensions of the global economy that rivals comparable research success at much larger institutions. Researchers have regional expertise in East Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. In 1993, the University established the Trent International Program (TIP) to help draw together faculty under one academic umbrella. The University is actively recruiting international students to campus, and this too has enhanced Trent's institutional partnerships abroad. In 2000, the University endorsed the establishment of two new undergraduate program emphases: Globalization, Communities, and Identities; and International Political Economy. At the graduate level, the M.A. in Anthropology graduate program covers a range of traditional anthropological and cross-cultural themes, such as the study of ethnicity, race, gender, class, kinship and nationalism. It also engages in active research on travel and tourists, organizational culture in the non-profit sector, and in museum studies. As noted previously, Trent is the lead institution on a \$5 million CIDA-project called INSTRUCT, which is dedicated to the local resolution of severe environmental pollution in watersheds in Ecuador and Mexico. This large-scale project, which includes researchers from six other North, Middle, and South American universities and colleges, has enhanced Trent's reputation for international development studies. In 1999, Trent was

one of three universities (with St. Lawrence University in the U.S., and University of the West Indies in Trinidad) which, in partnership, were awarded a Ford Foundation grant (\$350,000 US) for the project "Crossing Borders: Revitalizing Area Studies". The project, one of only 30 chosen by the Foundation from over 200 institutional applications, is for three years and designed to examine transnational and transcultural methodologies and interconnecting diasporas. In 1999-2000, research by Trent faculty is ongoing in over 20 different countries around the globe. There are an estimated 12 faculty associated with this research area who currently have, or recently have held, SSHRC (or other major external) funding for research.

### **Native Studies**

Research by and about aboriginal peoples has been a focus of Trent faculty virtually since the start of the University. It is an established and widely recognized research centre at Trent. The Indian and Eskimo Studies Program (later re-named the Native Studies Program) in 1972, is the oldest and largest such department (and first to offer baccalaureate degrees in this area) in Canada. The Department presently offers thirty undergraduate courses in a variety of academic programs including a Native Management and Economic Development Program, and Indigenous Environmental Studies Program, a Northern Field School in Nunavut and a Thailand Year Abroad Program. At the graduate level, as previously noted, Trent has offered a M.A. in Canadian Studies and Native Studies since 1986. In 1999, the University initiated Canada's first separate Ph.D. programme in Native Studies (only the second such programme in North America). It has a unique emphasis on the role and importance of indigenous knowledge systems, with a focus on research in the fields of Native history, politics, and culture. Five Trent faculty members in the Department of Native Studies were centrally involved in the research for, and writing of, the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1993-1998), a major undertaking for the Government of Canada. One member served as Co-Chair of research for this Royal Commission. Native Studies faculty also have an established and enviable record of research with aboriginal peoples in the North, and have helped to spearhead special relations with Arctic College in Nunavut. The Department also works closely with the Department of Indian Affairs of the federal government.

Native Studies faculty have attained an international reputation through their research in aboriginal communities on such topics as self-government, aboriginal language development, the impact of residential schools, aboriginal business and economic development, Northern studies, environmental studies, education, law and international development. Native Studies faculty members are currently holding the positions of Editors of two major scholarly journals, The Canadian Journal of Native Studies and the CANDO Journal of Aboriginal Economics Development. There are an estimated 7 faculty members associated with the Native Studies research area who currently hold, or recently have held SSHRC (or other major external) funding for research.

### **Quantitative Modelling Studies:**

This is an emerging interdisciplinary research focus at Trent that cuts across a diverse range of academic disciplines, in both the natural and social

sciences (e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Computer Studies, Economics, Environmental Science, Geography, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, and Sociology). There are 13 faculty members associated with this research area who currently have NSERC, SSHRC, or MRC (or other major external) funding for research. The research focus is bolstered at Trent by a recently established graduate program, M.A./M.Sc. in Applications of Modelling in the Natural and Social Sciences (AMINSS). Interest in the AMINSS program has grown substantially in recent years, such that this program received the 3rd highest number of applications of all Trent graduate programs (3rd after WEGS and CSDN) for the coming academic year. The program has 23 core-faculty who come from 8 different undergraduate departments. Much, though not all, of the modelling research at Trent is oriented toward quantitative models, utilizing computational, mathematical, or statistical techniques. The research area is supported by a very highly regarded Canadian Environmental Modelling Centre, a research institute led by an NSERC-Industry Senior Chair and a Junior Chair, in environmental chemistry (see also Environmental and Natural Resource Studies). Both faculty members recently selected for a Premier's Research Excellence Award (PREA) are actively involved in the AMINSS program and have established programs of research in quantitative modelling.

### **Assessment of the Strategic Research Plan**

It is the intention of Trent University to strengthen the research clusters identified in the Strategic Research Plan, through allocation of the new Canada Research Chairs (CRCs). It is expected that new Chair appointments, in turn, will assume key leadership roles in development and enhancement of the graduate programs and/or research centres associated with these priority areas. Chairs will include graduate and advanced undergraduate students in their research projects, improving funded student research training opportunities. It is also desired that Chairs will bring to the university useful inter-institutional connections, to enhance Trent's partnerships and networking capacity, with both public and private sectors, across Canada and abroad. It is anticipated that Chairs (as appropriate) will seek funding from CFI, and other external sources, enhancing the research infrastructure at Trent. In those strategic research areas which are identified as "emerging", chairs might be expected to assist the university in transforming masters-only graduate programs into masters and doctoral programs, as staffing and operating resources permit, and creating new graduate courses/seminars in their research specializations. Chairs will also be expected to stimulate interdisciplinary research, and assume leadership roles in established research institutes, organizing workshops, symposia, and international conferences.

Other ways in which the University will meet its major objectives in the Strategic Research Plan are to enhance funding for the Committees on Research, research centres, and graduate programs at Trent. Such improvements will enable the Office of Research to better assist new faculty in establishing their research programs, and increase the University's ability to attract the best graduate students possible in these selected areas, and likely serve to attract visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows to work with Trent faculty, collaboratively, in these selected areas. These steps, and others, should result in increased levels of research funding from major external sources, increase the number of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral

collaborations, and the overall output of faculty (and faculty-student) research publications in these areas.

Assessment of the Strategic Research Plan by the University will be achieved over the next five years by the measurement of multiple benchmarks, including the tracking of changes in identified strategic research areas for:

- Number and quality of faculty research publications;
- Faculty resources, including Canada Research Chairs;
- Resources provided to support the University's Committees on Research and operations of the Office of Research and Graduate Studies;
- Resources provided to support and operate research centres, institutes, and groups;
- Resources available to support and operate graduate programmes;
- Numbers of visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows;
- Numbers of faculty funded by SSHRC, NSERC, and MRC grants, and other external funding sources;
- Numbers of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral collaborations;
- Number and quality of applicants to graduate programs in these areas.

### **Final Comments:**

Trent's Strategic Research Plan is a "living document" that will evolve through time. The plan lists priority research areas that have been identified internally at Trent as of strategic importance to the university, along with recommendations on how to enhance and build upon these strengths in future. The Strategic Research Plan is expected to help guide the university in its planning, decision-making, and resource allocation for the next half-decade. It is also acknowledged that as new faculty appointments occur, new research funding opportunities/ partnerships arise, and faculty research interests change and evolve, different research constellations at the university can be expected to emerge. With this will come a need to amend the Strategic Research Plan through a process of further academic consultation within the university community.

### **Appendix A: Graduate Programs at Trent (Current and Proposed, April, 2000)**

Applications of Modelling in the Natural and Social Sciences (AMOD)  
M.A. and M.Sc.  
Graduate Program Director: Prof. Jim Parker

Anthropology (ANTH)  
M.A.  
Graduate Program Director: Prof. Hermann Helmuth

Canadian Studies (CAST)  
Ph.D.  
Joint with Carleton University  
Under Review by OCGS

Canadian Studies and Native Studies (CSNS)  
M.A.  
Graduate Program Director: Prof. John Wadland

Methodologies for the Study of Western History and Culture (METH)  
M.A.  
Graduate Program Director: Prof. Andy Wernick

Native Studies (NAST)  
Ph.D.  
Graduate Program Director: Prof. Don McCaskill

Watershed Ecosystems (WEGP)  
M.Sc. and Ph.D.  
Graduate Program Director: Prof. Dave Lasenby

Trent/Queens Graduate Program (T/QGP)  
Collaborative Program with Queen's University in Graduate Studies  
M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.  
Associate Graduate Director: Prof. Mark Parnis

### **Appendix B: Trent University Research Institutes, Centres, and Groups Referred to in the Strategic Research Plan**

African Studies Research Group (Director: Prof. Jackie Solway)

Archaeological Research Centre (TUARC) (proposed)

Brain Behaviour and Cognitive Science Research Group (Director: Prof. Jim Parker)

Canadian Environmental Modelling Centre (Director: Prof. Don Mackay)

Centre for Community-Based Education (TCCBE) (Director: Prof. John Wadland)

Centre for Psychometric Research (proposed)

Centre for the Study of Theory, Culture and Politics (Director: Prof. Andrew Wernick)

Environmental Policy Institute (TEPI) (proposed)

Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Native Studies (Director: Prof. John Wadland)

Health Research Group (Director: Prof. Jackie Muldoon)

International Political Economy Centre (TIPEC) (proposed)

Institute for Mass Spectroscopy (TUIMS) (Director: Prof. Doug Evans)

Institute for the Study of Popular Culture (TISPOC) (Director: Prof. Andrew Wernick)

Oliver Ecological Centre (Director: Prof. Tom Hutchinson)

Water Quality Centre (Director: Prof. Doug Evans)

Watershed Science Centre (Director: Dr. Leon Carl)

Wildlife Forensic DNA Centre (Director: Conjunct Prof. Brad White)

### **Appendix C: Research Planning Group and Institutional Consultation Process**

Establishment of Vice President's "Research Planning Group" (February, 2000)

Graham Taylor (VP-Academic) (Chair)

Colin Taylor (Dean-Arts & Science)

Paul Healy (Dean-Research & Graduate Studies)

Joe Muldoon (Coordinator-Research & Graduate Studies)

Jim Jury (Co-Chair-Committee on Research/Natural Sciences)

Andreas Pickel (Co-Chair-Committee on Research/Social Sci & Humanities)

Tom Hutchinson (Distinguished Research Awardee-Natural Sciences)

Bob Paehlke (Distinguished Research Awardee-Social Sciences)

Michael Peterman (Distinguished Research Awardee-Humanities)

Andy Wernick (Humanities Caucus Representative)

Meetings and Discussions (February-March, 2000)

Humanities Caucus

Science Chairs

Social Science Caucus (special meeting)

Committees on Research

First Draft of Plan (for comments/ advice) (March-April, 2000)

Committees on Research

Committee on Graduate Studies

Faculty Board (Academic Department/Program Chairs)

Senate

Final Draft of Plan (May, 2000)

Faculty Board

Senate

Submission to Tri-Council Steering Committee for Canada Research Chairs Program  
(June, 2000)