

TRENT UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN

SUMMARY

Trent University identifies the conduct of high calibre research as a fundamental element of its mission as an autonomous Canadian institution of higher learning. Research is identified as an institutional priority in Trent's Mission Statement, Statement of Goals, and in the Institutional Objectives section of the University Calendar. Finally, the importance of research for Trent faculty is emphasized in the Collective Agreement between the University and the Trent University Faculty Association. As evidence of the success of Trent researchers, Trent University has consistently ranked among the top universities in Canada in per capita research funding and major faculty research awards.

Within the University, research is concentrated in dozens of different undergraduate departments and in several graduate programs. Graduate studies at the Masters and/or Doctoral levels are research-focused, thesis-based programs. *Interdisciplinary research* involving collaboration between faculty from different disciplines is seen as an institutional strength. *Research within the community and region* is also encouraged and is seen as a unique strength of Trent. The University has established a number of important research partnerships and agreements with provincial and federal agencies, and with a number of companies in the private sector. Many of these companies have participated as partners in NSERC-Industry Research Chairs, and have contributed to the acquisition of research infrastructure through partnerships with the Canada Foundation for Innovation and Ontario Innovation Trust.

Trent University acknowledges that all faculty research is valued and important to its overall mission. It also recognizes that Trent must differentiate itself from other similar institutions and identify specific areas where it intends to conduct research of international calibre. Through a process of consultation and review, the University identified the following 8 strategic research areas for development over the period between 2000-2005:

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

Over the next five years, Trent University expects to make at least eight Canada Research Chair (CRC) appointments at the Tier 1 and Tier 2 levels. Nominations for CRCs will be selected from candidates that conduct research with the strategic areas identified above.