



MEETING EDE 12-20-24

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT**

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THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024
EAGLE ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
10:30 AM

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Briefing with Aurora College on Status of Aurora College
5. New Business
 - a)
6. Date and Time of Next Meetings:
 - a) Thursday, May 16, 2024 1:30PM: Public Briefing, Graeme Clinton/NWT&NU Chamber of Mines
 - b) Thursday, May 23, 2024 10:30AM: Committee Business
 - c) Thursday, May 30, 2024 10:30AM: Committee Business
 - d) Thursday, June 6, 2024 10:30AM: Public Briefing with YZF Airport Economic Advisory Committee Chair (*Pending*)
 - e) Thursday, June 13, 2024 10:30AM: Public Briefing with Mackenzie Land and Water Board – Regulatory Project
7. Adjournment



**COLLÈGE
AURORA
COLLEGE**



**Transformation
Update: GNWT
Economic
Development &
Environment Standing
Committee**

May 16, 2024



**COLLÈGE
AURORA
COLLEGE**

What is a polytechnic university?



EDE-003

A polytechnic combines the in-depth study found at universities with practical skills training, targeted, job-specific diplomas, certificates, and microcredentials. Looking at our Northern population this variety of programming matches the needs for our industries to fill employment vacancies, allows students to start in the North closer to home, and allows those working opportunities to take additional course work that supports their present employment in the form of microcredentials. While universities offer courses on academic and theoretical topics like math, English, and history, polytechnics focus more fully on applied skills training—they offer accredited degrees, certificates, diplomas, apprenticeships, Red Seal trades, and microcredentials.

Polytechnic University



- It's not uncommon for universities to offer co-op programs, but polytechnics go one step further, introducing students to real-world experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. The majority of Canadian polytechnics (60% - 70%) incorporate work-integrated learning into their degree, diploma, and graduate certificate programs.
- This encompasses co-op terms, internships, field experience, and professional practice.
- With this experience—learning by doing—polytechnic students are ready to hit the ground running. They've gained valuable insight about their industry of choice and leave school with a competitive advantage.

Goal of Transformation



To establish an effective, efficient, and sustainable polytechnic university that continues to be responsive to the employment needs of Northerners. This must be done in the right order and at the right time which became our critical pathway with three phases. RJ. Simpson, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (Oct. 2020)

Work involved

- 61 recommendations from Foundational Review (2018)
- Over 200 individual projects over 8 years (2019-2027)



Guiding Documents/Legislation

- NWT Postsecondary Education Strategic Framework (2019-20229)
 - Prioritize student success
 - Increase access to postsecondary education opportunities
 - Remain responsive to the NWT labor demands
 - Remain responsive to local and regional needs
 - Support growth of the knowledge economy
- Aurora College Act (2022) brings in Tricameral governance structure
 - Board of Governors (March 2023)
 - Academic Council (November 2023)
 - Indigenous knowledge Holders Council (March 2024)
- **President position** separated from dual position of President/Associate Deputy Minister (April 2022)

Moving Forward...Three Phases of Work

- **Strengthening the foundation and **planning** for the change**
 - Update policies and processes
 - Program Reviews for BEd and SW programs; Schedule for all other program reviews on a predetermined schedule
 - Strategic Enrollment and Marketing Plan
 - First Strategic Plan and First Academic Plan
 - Identify 4 initial areas of specializations; Skilled Trades and Technology; Northern Health, Education and Community Services; School of Business and Leadership and Mineral Resource and Environmental Management
- **Transformational change (**Implementation phase**)**
 - Organizational Design change
 - Quality assurance process with Alberta
 - Restoring the BOG, IKHC
 - Build capacity of staff
 - Program Advisory Committees established for all programs
 - Facilities Master Plan (visionary 10 year plan)
- **Polytechnic university **launched****
 - Announcement of the new made in the NWT Degree



Initial Areas of Specialization

- **Business and Leadership**

- Terry Harrold School of Aviation
- Northern Leadership Development Program 2



- **Northern Health, Education and Community Services**

- BSW 2027
- BEd 2027
- Practical Nursing, Personal Support Worker
- Early Learning and Child Care provides certificate and diploma every year intake plus a distance program that can be completed in 18 months for those already working in the field
- General Studies 2025 can lead to any degree program



Initial Areas of Specialization (continued)

- **Skilled Trades and Technology**

- Trades Awareness Programs
- Remediation programming being developed
- Increased HEO programming
- Skills for Success 2



- **Mineral Resource and Environmental Management**

- Program Review of ENRTP, recommendations back at the end of September 2024
- Summer Camp at Tsu Lake for Grade 10 and 11 students; Dual credit in ENRTP
- Working with ECC for involvement in Program Advisory Committee; curriculum changes and potential development of certificate program that will ladder into ENRTP diploma (many vacant positions right now that require a certificate level of training), in discussion re: co- location of new lab



Research Chairs



- Created three Research Chair positions
 - Each position was carefully situated on one of the three campuses based on research opportunities
 - 50% base funded and 50% to come from their research grant efforts
 - Their role was to develop a research program
 - Initially funded by Arctic Net
 - North Slave campus, Health and Community where the bulk of health consistent health programming is located and students could be involved
 - Thebacha campus, Indigenous Approaches to Environmental Monitoring to allow the researchers to work with our students in ENRTP
 - Aurora campus, Inuvik, Climate Change Adaptation due to the present environment and the opportunity to work with researchers from the North and from outside the North

Issues at the present time



- Operating budget is approximately \$52-54 million/year but \$32 million comes from GNWT (59.2% of the budget is not consistent dollars but needs to be reapplied for on a term basis)
- When it involves educational programming it means that we cannot guarantee consistent programming from year to year i.e. ELCC, PSW, PN
- Majority of the funding that supports our arm of research at Aurora College, ARI that requires dedicated resources to monitor, implement evaluate and then report results; develop ongoing proposals for funding, typically with quick turn around times for submission



Issues (continued)

- Student Enrollment
- Underutilization of Community Learning Centers
- Housing at all three campuses
 - North Slave campus left 90 students on a wait list for housing 2022-23
 - Aurora campus had 20 empty dorm style rooms this academic year (2023-24)
 - Thebacha campus continues to use Breynat Hall; other units require maintenance



Breynat Hall, Thebacha Campus



Mársi
Kinanāskomitin
Thank you
Merci
Haj'
Quana
Qujannamiik
Quyaininni
Máhsì
Máhsì
Mahsì



Questions?

