



**DECHINTA**  
Centre for Research and Learning

## Backgrounder

### **Aurora College, Collège nordique francophone and Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning formalize commitment to work together with MOU**

The [NWT Post-Secondary Education Strategic Framework 2019–2020](#) helped layout a strategic direction for post-secondary education in the NWT, highlighting an increased need for collaboration between the post-secondary education and research institutions already operating in the NWT.

Through collaboration, NWT post-secondary institutions will have an increased ability to enrich their communities by exploring cooperative opportunities in increasing student success, support increased access to post-secondary programs, and enhancing the responsiveness of NWT post-secondary institutions to the needs of the labour market both Territorial wide, and within smaller communities.

The MOU between Aurora College, Collège nordique francophone (Collège nordique), and Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning (Dechinta) will support this collaboration by promoting the opportunity for co-location, program transferability, student mobility, research ventures, student-centred supports, and promotion of high quality and relevant programming.

Aurora College is in process to transform into a Polytechnic University over the next 6 years. As this transformation moves forward, a partnership amongst NWT post-secondary institutions is an important part of ensuring the future Polytechnic University fulfills its mandate of serving NWT post-secondary needs and creating meaningful student pathways across the system.

With the transformation of Aurora College to a polytechnic university, there will be increased opportunities for partnerships between the post-secondary education ecosystem, Indigenous Governments, researchers, industry, municipal, Territorial and Federal governments.

By publicly reporting on progress and outcomes resulting from this MOU, Aurora College, Collège nordique francophone, and Dechinta commit to a high level of accountability. Joint plans will guide this collaboration, strengthen the post-secondary education ecosystem, increases access to post-secondary programs and pathways within the NWT, and maximize the resources of each institution.

Aurora College has served as the primary source of labour market ready programming for the NWT for over 50 years by delivering certificate, diploma, degree, trades and industrial training, and academic upgrading programs at its three campuses and 21 Community Learning Centres. Aurora College programs reflect Northern culture and the needs of the Northern labour market.

Collège nordique established in 2011, is the only educational institution North of 60 where you can develop your language and professional skills and pursue post-secondary education in French. Also, Collège nordique has distinguished itself for its language school offering Indigenous languages, French,

English, and Spanish in person and by distance. Year over year, Collège nordique has increased its enrollment by expanding its programs according to needs and aspirations expressed by the community. Collège nordique also supports immigrants to the NWT by offering LINC programs and other settlement services. They are the proud recipient of the 2019 Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada *Employer Award for Newcomer Employment*.

Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, established in 2010, has grown rapidly to become an internationally-recognized land-based post-secondary education and research institution. Dechinta has attracted \$14.2 million in research and program investments from Canada's research granting councils and private industry over the next 5 years. Their family-inclusive programming across the territories focuses on collaborative teaching and research that demonstrates a clear commitment to Indigenous knowledge. Indigenous-led land-based education and research increases resiliency, security and youth leadership in northern communities. Degree-level programs are offered in partnership with the University of British Columbia and the University of Alberta.