



November 12, 2020

Mr. Tim Syer  
President  
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce  
#21, 4802 50<sup>th</sup> AVENUE  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1C4

Dear Mr. Syer:

### **Aurora College Transformation**

Aurora College is transforming into an effective, efficient and sustainable polytechnic university that will provide increased access to quality post-secondary opportunities for the people of the Northwest Territories (NWT).

I am pleased to share the *Aurora College Transformation Implementation Plan (Attachment 1)*. The Implementation Plan sets out clear timelines and critical milestones that will be achieved throughout the transformation, including updates to the *Aurora College Act*, the re-establishment of a Board of Governors and a secondary legislative change that will establish the polytechnic university.

I am also pleased to share the *Initial Areas of Teaching and Research Specialization for the Polytechnic University (Attachment 2)*. Initial Areas of Teaching and Research Specialization will help to define what success means to the polytechnic university. As part of the transformation process, they will also guide investments in teaching and research programs, student supports and facilities.

To support transparency and meaningful engagement, the Government of the Northwest Territories shared two discussion papers in Fall 2020 that focused on proposed initial areas of teaching and research specialization and Aurora College and polytechnic university governance.

Thank you to the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce for consideration of the discussion papers, and for taking the time to share your views through your letters of September 14, 2020 and of September 25, 2020. The perspectives conveyed through the engagement process have helped to shape the initial areas of specialization. The input received on the governance discussion paper will help to inform the development of a legislative proposal and changes to the *Aurora College Act*.

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A strengthened Aurora College and sustainable, effective and efficient polytechnic university will put NWT residents first in line for in-demand jobs and will continue to build on our connections to land, tradition, community and people.

Industry partners are an important part of our success, and we look forward to continuing to engage as the transformation progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.J. Simpson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R.J. Simpson  
Minister, Education, Culture  
and Employment

#### Attachments

c. Mr. Andy Bevan  
Associate Deputy Minister, Post-Secondary Education Renewal  
Education, Culture and Employment

Ms. Deneen Everett  
Executive Director  
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce