



#21, 4802 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1C4
Phone: (867) 920-4944
ExecutiveDirector@YKChamber.com

Her Worship, Rebecca Alty
Mayor, City of Yellowknife 4807

52nd Street, Box 580
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N4

June 3rd, 2022

Re: Aurora College Transformation – Yellowknife Campus Location

Dear Mayor Alty,

Thank you for taking the time to share and discuss the draft MOU between the GNWT and City of Yellowknife regarding the proposed location for the Yellowknife campus of Aurora College. The Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce is a strong proponent of the Aurora College Transformation project. Our board members are closely tracking the progression made by the Aurora College Transformation team and its meeting of critical milestones. We eagerly await the results of the Facilities Master Plan set to be released this summer and we are happy to see the project moving forward with the selection of a location for the Yellowknife campus.

We support creating a sustainable polytechnic institution with relevant programming to meet local labour needs, to capture more Northern and Arctic research dollars, and attract international and southern students. We believe the selection of Tin Can Hill as the location for the Yellowknife campus is a positive step toward meeting these goals.

Although not located in the downtown core, Tin Can Hill's proximity to the downtown provides for a central distinct campus model that is attractive to prospective students while not being so separate so as to isolate those students from the city's amenities. We believe this location will create a meaningful opportunity for the city and business community and is a step in the right direction toward further downtown revitalization efforts.

We recognize that Tin Can Hill is a treasured part of Yellowknife, enjoyed by many Yellowknifers in a recreational manner. In this vein we are encouraged that the MOU recognizes a desire on the part of the GNWT and Aurora College to "preserve and enhance the natural setting and support a safe and health community" and that the project proponents "will strive to create opportunities for the surrounding community to access the Lands in a manner consistent with historic uses". There are many examples of university campuses across our country that utilize and enhance their outdoor space and there is no reason Aurora College's Yellowknife Campus would not seek to do the same.

The Tin Can Hill location provides opportunity for future expansion and growth while creating an attractive "destination" campus for prospective students in the near term. This location is an opportunity to encourage northern students to stay in the north and study at the post-secondary level



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while attracting students from southern cities. The economic benefits of creating an aesthetically attractive campus in close proximity to the downtown and community amenities cannot be understated.

The influx of students, educators and research dollars into Yellowknife will follow meaningful and relevant program delivery. Creating a beautiful campus where this learning can take place is also an important component of Aurora College's future success. The selection of Tin Can Hill as the location for the Yellowknife campus is a solid foundation on which to enact the goals of Aurora College's Transformation – to increase access to quality post-secondary education opportunities for Northerners and to foster growth of research that is beneficial to our communities and people.

We are pleased to offer our support to the City of Yellowknife, the GNWT and Aurora College in the selection of Tin Can Hill as the best place for the Yellowknife campus of a truly transformed polytechnic university.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Warburton".

Rob Warburton, President
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Syer".

Melissa Syer, Executive Director
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

