



AURORA COLLEGE TRANSFORMATION

Quarterly Report

MAY 2021

Aurora College is transforming into a polytechnic university to increase opportunities for the residents of the Northwest Territories — opportunities for education and training in certificate, diploma, and degree programs, as well as trades; opportunities at a polytechnic university that will support employment in the territory's labour market; and opportunities for research that serves the interests of Northern residents and industry. The institution will continue to meet students where they are in their educational journey and offer upgrading, as well as literacy and essential skills. The polytechnic university is for every NWT resident and will have a presence in every NWT community.

The transformation is a multi-year process involving changes to every aspect of the institution and we want to keep you informed of our progress.

Transformation activities have been broken down into five key areas: Academic Program Management, Accountability, Governance, Operations, and Recruitment and Retention of Students. We measure our progress using milestones, each of which marks the completion of a significant task along the transformation journey. Critical Milestones shape and affect the overall transformation process and timeline. These are outlined on the back page of this document with completed milestones marked with a check mark. Additional milestones can be tracked on our [Progress Tracker](#) online.

Inside this document you will see the five key areas, each with a short description of their current focus, along with the 2021 total number of milestones currently planned.

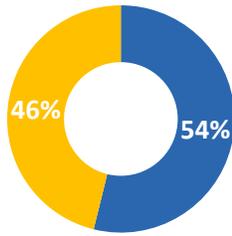
You can track further details about the milestones and our progress at these links:

Aurora College Transformation [website](#):

- Timeline: www.ece.gov.nt.ca/aurora-transformation/en/Timeline
- Progress Tracker: www.ece.gov.nt.ca/aurora-transformation/en/transformation-progress-tracker
- Benefits (in all Official NWT languages) of a Polytechnic www.ece.gov.nt.ca/aurora-transformation/en/ (bottom left of page)
- Transformation Implementation Plan: www.ece.gov.nt.ca/aurora-transformation/en/aurora-college-transformation-implementation-plan
- Additional Documents: www.ece.gov.nt.ca/aurora-transformation/en/resources

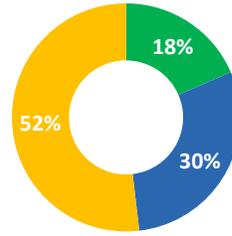
Aurora College Transformation to April 2021

ACADEMIC PROGRAM MANAGEMENT MILESTONES



2021 Milestones

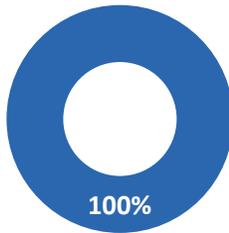
- 0 Completed
- 7 In progress
- 6 Not yet started



2018-2026 Milestones

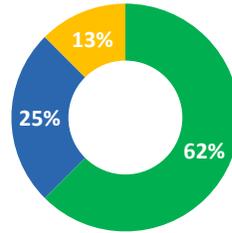
- 5 Completed
- 8 In progress
- 14 Not yet started

ACCOUNTABILITY MILESTONES



2021 Milestones

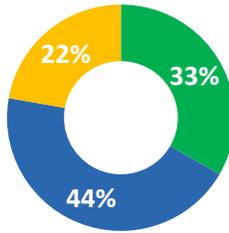
- 0 Completed
- 2 In progress
- 0 Not yet started



2018-2026 Milestones

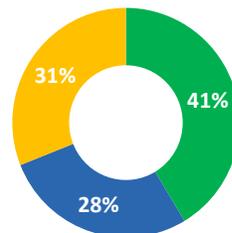
- 5 Completed
- 2 In progress
- 1 Not yet started

GOVERNANCE MILESTONES



2021 Milestones

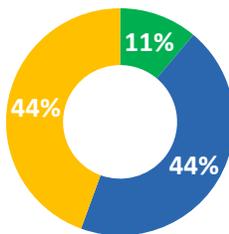
- 3 Completed
- 4 In progress
- 2 Not yet started



2018-2026 Milestones

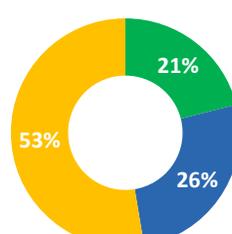
- 12 Completed
- 8 In progress
- 9 Not yet started

OPERATIONS MILESTONES



2021 Milestones

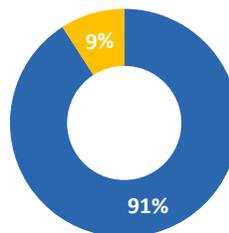
- 1 Completed
- 4 In progress
- 4 Not yet started



2018-2026 Milestones

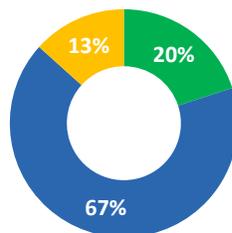
- 4 Completed
- 5 In progress
- 10 Not yet started

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION OF STUDENTS MILESTONES



2021 Milestones

- 0 Completed
- 10 In progress
- 1 Not yet started



2018-2026 Milestones

- 3 Completed
- 10 In progress
- 2 Not yet started

Current Focus

Academic Program Management

The Academic Program Management (APM) Working Group continues to make progress on the first three-year Academic Plan that links the goals of Aurora College's strategic plan to the operational plan. An academic plan provides faculty, staff and students with a view of the academic future of the institution by outlining specific goals and areas of focus for improvements in the institution. The Aurora College first Academic Plan will position the institution for sustainable success in the long term and assist in gaining efficiencies in the short term.

Program reviews also help with ensuring efficiencies as the process evaluates how current and effective academic programs are, and identifies the changes required to ensure that a program meets the needs and priorities of students and the labour market. The working group has approved an approach and is close to completing a schedule for a regular academic program review. The approach and the program review schedule will support Aurora College in moving to a polytechnic university as it is a requirement of quality assurance.

Accountability

The development of a balanced scorecard is well underway and is a strategic planning and management system that aligns the day-to-day work that everyone is doing with the institution's strategy and informs its strategic goals. A balanced scorecard also aligns the goals of the institution to the divisions and people within the institution. The scorecard provides an easy way to communicate areas of strengths and identify areas for improvement within the institution. Key performance indicators (KPI) are used to measure success and provide a mechanism for continuous quality improvement of the institution. The targets for the KPIs become the mechanism the government and the public can measure change within the institution and hold the institution accountable to meet their strategic goals and to continue to improve.

Governance

The transformation process includes key changes to legislation and Aurora College policies. There continues to be a focus on ensuring the institution can meet the quality assurance requirements of a post-secondary university as defined in the *NWT Post-Secondary Education Act*, prior to becoming a university. Proposed amendments to the *Aurora College Act* have been introduced through the legislative process with a goal of reinstating the Board of Governors in the fall of 2022.

Operations

The Operations Working Group remains focused on ensuring that policies and operations reflect best practices and post-secondary institution industry standards. This includes the review of all policies and procedures to ensure they effectively support an efficient, effective and sustainable institution and examine processes that support student and staff safety. The Working Group must also be mindful of how changes that are strengthening the foundation now, may need to further evolve under a polytechnic university model.

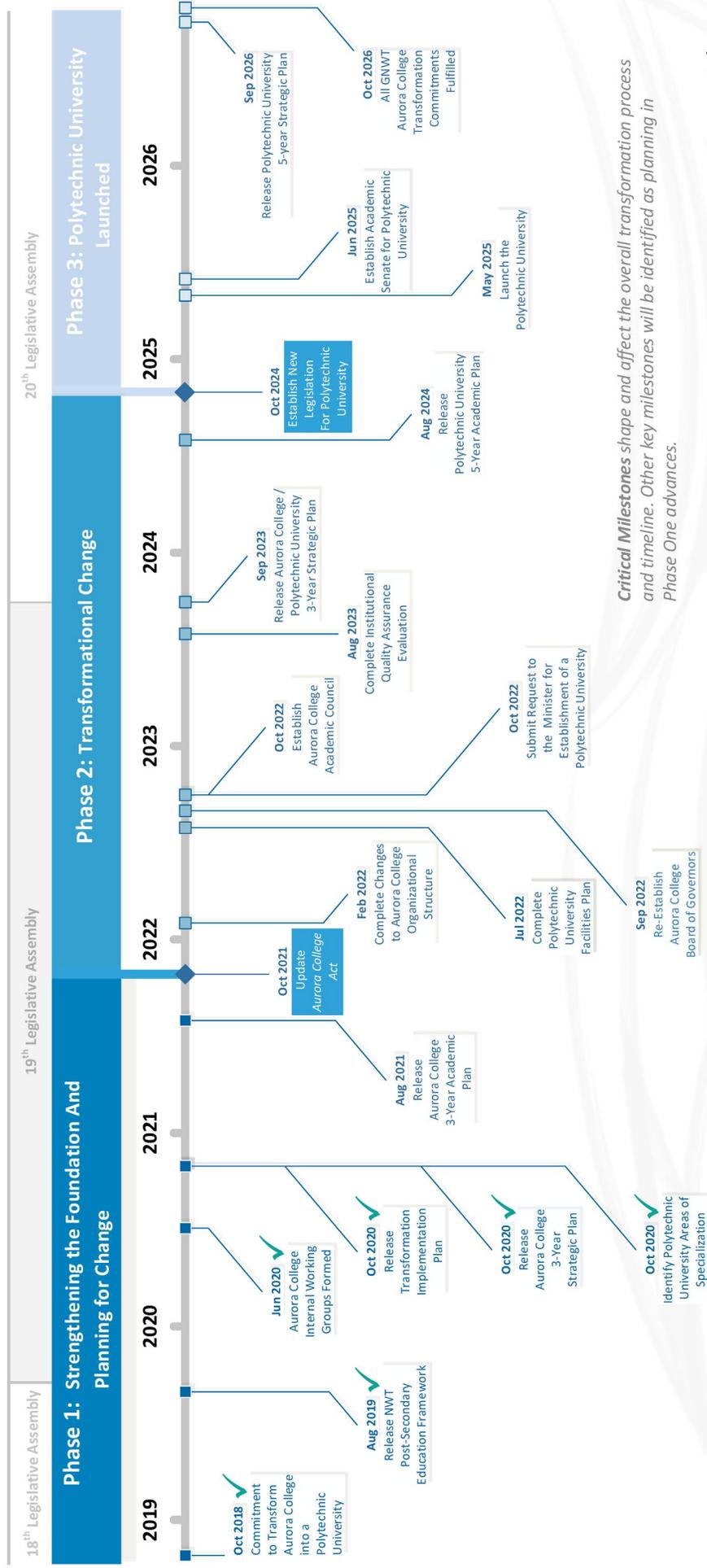
Recruitment and Retention of Students

Significant progress has been made on the development of a plan that will strengthen student recruitment and retention by focusing on supporting students from the moment they call to inquire about a program until they complete their program and are employed. This working group is also working on the creation of a three year communications strategy and marketing plan. Two requests for proposals were issued seeking subject experts with post-secondary education experience to support the development of these strategies.



Aurora College Transformation

CRITICAL MILESTONES as of April 2021



Critical Milestones shape and affect the overall transformation process and timeline. Other key milestones will be identified as planning in Phase One advances.

Government of Northwest Territories