

AURORA COLLEGE

FOUNDATIONAL REVIEW

October 2018



Backgrounder

- The Aurora College Foundational Review (Review) was initiated in March 2017.
- The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) directed the department to undertake the Review to ensure that Aurora College is managed effectively and efficiently, is meeting the diverse needs of students and is responsive to changes in the labour market.
- In September 2017, the contract to conduct the Review was awarded to MNP LLP.
- The independent contractor worked with Members of the Legislative Assembly, representatives from Indigenous Governments and communities, Aurora College students and staff, northern employers and leaders from industry, subject matter experts, partner academic institutions, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) staff and other key stakeholders from across the territory.
- The external contractor, MNP LLP, delivered the Aurora College Foundational Review Report (the Review Report) in May 2018.
- The Review Report made 67 recommendations in the areas of governance, operations, academic program processes, accountability, and student recruitment and retention, along with an overarching recommendation to transform Aurora College into a polytechnic university.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has accepted the overarching recommendation to transform the College into a polytechnic university.
- A polytechnic university combines the practical approach of a college and the depth of study associated with a university. Polytechnic programs are skills-intensive and technology-based. Hands'-on learning opportunities provide students with practical training for in-demand jobs.
- The GNWT assessment has determined that a polytechnic university, building on our existing College, is the most efficient, effective and practical path towards providing more postsecondary education and training opportunities in the north, for northerners.
- The Government has developed a comprehensive response to the Review Report, including a response for each recommendation. The Government response takes into account feedback from the Standing Committee on Social Development and key stakeholders.
- A main priority moving forward will be to ensure a strong and effective institution is maintained, with three vibrant campuses, each with quality programs that are sustainable and which utilize, and build on, the assets of the communities where they are provided.
- The Government is seeking an Associate Deputy Minister of Postsecondary Education Renewal. The search closes October 31, and the position will be filled as soon as possible after that date. The Associate Deputy Minister will manage and implement the GNWT response to the Review Report, develop a vision for postsecondary education in consultation with stakeholders and administer Aurora College operations.

For further information or for a copy of the Review Report: www.ece.gov.nt.ca/ACFR