



July 20, 2023

**Letter of Support: General Studies and Social Work Programming**

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed General Studies and Social Work programs soon launching through Aurora College.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) has observed a significant reduction in post-secondary programming offered at the Aurora College, Aurora Campus. In consulting with community members within the Gwich'in Settlement Area, many people want to see greater post-secondary programming at the Aurora Campus as well as at the community learning centres, with a focus on programs that will lead to consistent and meaningful employment. The need to travel hundreds of kilometres away from home is commonly viewed as a barrier to achieving success in post-secondary education, especially for young graduates right out of high school.

The proposed General Studies and Social Work programs offer a potential solution to both the need for more programming in this region and the barrier of travel. These programs will allow students access to the first two years of these university programs via supported distance learning within their home communities and/or region and can lead to the completion of a Bachelor of Education or Bachelor of Social Work degrees.

As it is an objective of the GTC to see improved access to quality post-secondary educational opportunities in our communities and region, we fully support this proposal and believe it will have positive, direct, and lasting impacts on our students and their future employability.

If you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 777-7909 or via email at [janna.wolki@gwichintribal.ca](mailto:janna.wolki@gwichintribal.ca).

Mahsi,

Janna Wolki  
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