



Release of the *Government Response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Aurora College Foundational Review* marks the end of the review process and the beginning of a new path forward for Aurora College.

The GNWT has committed to strengthening the foundations of Aurora College and to begin its transformation into a polytechnic university.

Informed by both broad engagement with NWT stakeholders and national best practices, the GNWT will be creating a new kind of institution that will better meet the needs of NWT residents, employers and communities. 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 transformation process has already begun and will continue for several years, but the potential benefits are already clear.

First and foremost, upcoming changes at Aurora College will be focused on students, ensuring their academic success, as well as success in their jobs and as part of their community.

Residents in all communities will benefit from the transformation and all three campuses will gain new opportunities for growth. A polytechnic university will improve the quality and kinds of education and training opportunities at the Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith, the Yellowknife North Slave Campus, the Aurora Campus in Inuvik and at Community Learning Centres across the NWT.

The creation of a polytechnic university will also create new and exciting opportunities for growth of the knowledge economy moving forward. Strengthening and transforming Aurora College into a polytechnic university will help meet existing labour demands, while also encouraging innovation and attracting new and increased investments in northern research.

There is much work ahead to strengthen our postsecondary education system, but we are confident in the long-term economic and social gains that will result from the changes ahead.

Current Aurora College Programs

Student enrolment for the 2018/2019 academic year will continue. New programs that have been added for the 2018/2019 academic year, such as the Early Learning and Child Care Diploma program at the Yellowknife North Slave Campus, will continue to be implemented. Investments in infrastructure, such as the Centre for Mining and Industry Training Facility at the Thebacha Campus will also go forward.