

Aurora College



October 2017

A publication for the
Aurora College Community

Currents

New and updated programs offered at Campuses and Learning Centres

For nearly 50 years, Aurora College has delivered post-secondary and vocational education in the Northwest Territories. Throughout that time, the College has worked closely with NWT communities and employers to determine what programs are best suited to meet the needs of both.

Over the years, as labour market needs have changed, so have courses and programs. Aurora College works to be responsive to new and emerging employment trends and requirements so that Northerners have the skills and knowledge required to fill available positions in business, industry, and

government. Helping to guide program planning is Education, Culture & Employment's (ECE) recent Skills 4 Success initiative, which is geared to improving employment success for NWT residents, closing skill gaps for in-demand jobs, and more effectively responding to employer and industry needs.

Several new programs have been introduced or expanded at Aurora College recently. New programs and programs offered in new locations include:

- Pre-apprenticeship Housing Maintainer (2017-18) – Thebacha Campus;
- Surface Miner Training (2017) –

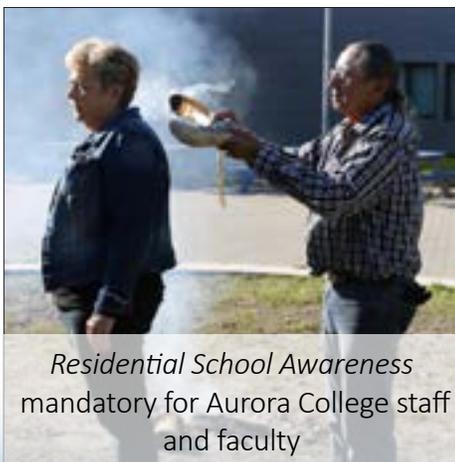
Thebacha Campus;

- Early Childhood Development Year 2 [Diploma year] (2017-18) – Aurora Campus;
- Office Administration Year 2 [Diploma Year] (2017-18) – Aurora Campus & Thebacha Campus;
- Office Administration Year 1 of updated program (2016-17) – Aurora Campus & Thebacha Campus;
- Business Administration Year 2 of updated program (2017-18) – Aurora Campus, Yellowknife North Slave Campus & Thebacha Campus;
- Business Administration Year 1 of

Continued on Page 4

In this issue

Page 3



Residential School Awareness
mandatory for Aurora College staff
and faculty

Page 7



Decolonizing Learning
researchers and Elders hosted by
Aurora College

Page 9



BSN celebrates 2017
Preceptor of the Year



Whether new or returning, welcome to Aurora College!

Thank you for choosing Aurora College. The beginning of every academic year brings with it both excitement and challenges, as well as both opportunities to succeed and times when we need a helping hand or support from others.

The **Student Services Division** has a number of resources and services available to assist students academically, physically, mentally, culturally, and emotionally. Please take advantage of these resources.

Your campus Student Success Centre offers workshops, seminars and one-on-one assistance on such academic-related topics as Time Management, Study Skills, Note Taking, Tutoring, Writing Papers, Exam Preparation, Budgeting, etc.

Student Wellness/Counselling:

We offer workshops, seminars and one-to-one counseling in the area of wellness, such as Dealing with Stress, Mental Health issues, Suicide Prevention, etc. We also organize

recreational and cultural activities, team sports, activity days, spirit-building events, and family activities. Students can receive one-to-one counseling with one of our on-campus Counselors, or can request a referral to a community health care professional or therapist. All sessions and referrals are kept strictly confidential. Seeking a referral through Aurora College can help students get an appointment faster than calling to make the appointment yourself. Our staff are also available if you are seeking a safe place to talk or share.

Library and Computer Labs, Computer Access

Aurora College students have access to modern, well-equipped computer labs, and a large library in which to study or work. Internet access and inter-library loans are available, as well as books, periodicals, magazine subscriptions, videos, government documents, web-based resources, and more.



Every student has a private "myauroracollege" email account, through which you will receive all College-related communications. Students at Aurora College can now use one account to access their myauroracollege.ca email, Office 365, campus computers & Moodle.

If you are having trouble accessing any of these services, please contact Aurora College Information Systems & Technology by sending an email to helpdesk@auroracollege.nt.ca

Enjoy your time at Aurora College, and take advantage of the many services available .

Follow **Aurora College** on Social Media



Residential School Awareness training mandatory for Aurora College staff & faculty

Aurora College is well on the way to the achieving the goal of having all staff and faculty participate in a mandatory "Residential School Awareness" training session, facilitated by the department of Education, Culture and Employment.

President Jane Arychuk notes: "As the effects of residential schools and colonization in the NWT and Canada impact many Aurora College students, their families and their communities, the decision was made that all staff and faculty should attend training to help them to better understand these effects, and in turn, be better able to support our students."

The one-day experiential learning sessions include the history of residential schools and the supporting legislation and policies in Canada, survivors' stories and experiences, a sharing circle, a Blanket Exercise, as well as opening and closing with traditional Indigenous ceremonies. In addition, trained counsellors were involved to provide

individual support.

According to Kairos Canada's website, the Blanket Exercise sessions are "based on participatory popular education methodology and the goal is to build understanding about our shared history as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada by walking through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. Everyone is actively involved as they step onto blankets that represent the land, and into the role of First Nations, Inuit and later Métis peoples." (<https://www.kairosCanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise>).

In cooperation with various government departments and agencies, the training has taken place at Thebacha Campus (Fort Smith) August 28 and 29, in Inuvik May 25 and 26, and in Yellowknife August 17. Further sessions will be held in Yellowknife and in other communities as required.



Aurora College President Jane Arychuk (left) participates in a smudge and cleansing ceremony with Dene Elder Henry Beaver at Thebacha Campus.

Former Board of Governors Elder representative appointed new Commissioner for the territory



Western Arctic MP Michael McLeod congratulates Margaret Thom.

Congratulations to the new Commissioner of the NWT, Margaret Thom, the third woman to be appointed to the positions. She was previously Deputy Commissioner from 2005 to 2011.

Thom, who is a graduate of Aurora College, also served as the first Elder Representative on the College's Board of Governors.

She brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge, as well as a passion for helping others and serving the community. Thom has been a strong advocate for youth, post-secondary education, and people struggling with addictions for decades.

After graduating from the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention Diploma program at Aurora College in the 1990s, she accepted the position of School Counsellor at Deh Gáh School in Fort Providence, which she held for many years.

Thom has demonstrated throughout her professional life that she takes her responsibility as a role model seriously. She has received a number of awards and recognition for her work and dedication, including: the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2013; induction into the NWT Education Hall of Fame, 2012; and an NWT Wise Woman Award in 2000.

Use Aurora College's Student Tool Kit

Loads of useful links and tips to help with your day to day College life. Visit our website and click on the icon on the bottom of the home page.



Northern Leadership Development students celebrate their completion of the program in Yellowknife. Participants included employees from Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, and Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.

Ten complete updated NLDP

Ten NWT residents were the first to complete Aurora College's newly updated Northern Leadership Development Program (NLDP) on June 14, 2017.

This uniquely Northern program is designed for employees in front line positions in industry or industry-related businesses or organizations in the Northwest Territories. It is also applicable to people new to supervisory or management roles, such as team leaders or front-line supervisors.

NLDP was inspired by the successful Diavik Aboriginal Leadership

Development Program, and has been offered since 2011. The updated program consists of eight 21-hour modules and one two-day module. Topics include Personal Development, Communications Skills, Effective Personal Leadership, Effective Team Leadership, Leading While Managing, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Conflict Management, Diversity-Conscious Leadership, and Leadership in Action.

NLDP was reviewed and updated to ensure that the latest research in the area of leadership was incorporated. Input

from previous participants, mentors and employers was integrated into the revised curriculum. One significant change is that the emotional intelligence model will be the primary unifying concept of the program content.

Key to the program are on-site mentors, who work with the students at their place of employment and who attend two of the Yellowknife-based modules with the students.

The 2016-17 cohort included employees from Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, and Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.

New and updated programs offered at Campuses and Learning Centres

Continued from Page 1

updated program (2016-17) – Aurora Campus, Yellowknife North Slave Campus & Thebacha Campus;

•Early Childhood Development Year 1 [Certificate year] (2016-17) – Aurora Campus;

•Occupations & College Access program (2016-17) – Aurora Campus, Yellowknife North Slave Campus & Thebacha Campus;

•University & College Access program (2016-17) - Aurora Campus, Yellowknife North Slave Campus & Thebacha Campus;

•Post Graduate Certificate in Remote Nursing (2016) – Yellowknife North Slave Campus;

- Introduction to the Mining Industry (2016) – Thebacha Campus;
- Personal Support Worker Certificate (2014-15 & 2015-16) – Aurora Campus.

This academic year marks the first time that Office Administration has been offered as a full-time program during regular school hours at Aurora Campus in Inuvik. It is also the first time that the newly updated diploma years of Office Administration and Business Administration have been offered at any of the campuses.

Plans are currently in the works to deliver a two-year Licensed Practical



Surface miner students take a look at site maps prior to touring Gahcho Kué diamond mine.

Nurse diploma program at Aurora Campus beginning in 2018-19.

Tulit'a celebration honours graduates: Aboriginal Language & Culture Instructor

The community of Tulit'a turned out in force on Thursday, June 15 to celebrate the success six students on their completion of a two-year community-based Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Diploma (ALCIP) program.



Instead of the usual caps and gowns, graduates chose to convocate in traditional dress: several pieces were created by the students or family members especially for the occasion.

The event opened with a Feeding of the Fire ceremony, then family, friends, and dignitaries cheered as each graduate

entered the hall accompanied drummers and by close family or friends.

During the ceremony, each graduate presented a special gift to the next generation. Following the presentation of the diplomas and awards, a community feast and drum dance capped off the night.



Graduates of the community-based ALCIP diploma program in Tulit'a, June 15.

Aurora Open Golf Tournament raises funds More than \$5,000 for student scholarships

A total of 76 golfers took part in the 19th annual Aurora Open Golf Tournament June 2-4 at Pelican Rapids Golf Course near Fort Smith. More than \$5,000 was raised for Aurora College admissions scholarships.

Funds raised provide financial assistance to Aurora College students entering post-secondary programs across the three campuses. Individuals and corporate/business teams participate.

Aurora College President Jane Arychuk says she was impressed with the weekend: "The Aurora Open continues to be a huge success due to the hard work of our organizers. The scholarship money raised is a huge boost to students who often struggle to support their post-secondary dreams."

Local and territorial sponsors, including Northwestel, Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and Dr. Stephen Prest, have been long-time supporters. Local sponsors



Corporate winners, Lou's Small Engines, pose with President Jane Arychuk.

who supplied prizes include: Kaeser's Stores, Northern Stores, A Touch of Heaven, Phoenix Automotive, Berro's Pizzeria, Sun Dog North Inc., Chase's Pit Stop, NWAL, Salt River First Nations, and Lou's Small Engines.

Nineteen four-person teams in the corporate and open divisions participated.

The 2017 winners included:
Corporate: 1st - Lou's Small Engines; 2nd - Fort Smith Housing Authority; 3rd - Northwest Power Corp.
Open: 1st - Father & Sons; 2nd - Tuckey's Minions; 3rd - LongBall Babies.

Four-day canoe tests students Teaches skills & perseverance

Environment & Natural Resources Technology Diploma students participate in three-week field camp, paddle on Talston River

First year Environment & Natural Resources Technology (ENRTP) Diploma students at Thebacha Campus began their program in high gear, with a three-week field camp that included a challenging four-day canoe trip with many portages.

The field camp is one of two that ENRTP students attend per year, in summer and winter. Lessons include basic field and survival skills, scientific protocols, fishery and wildlife identification and monitoring, team building activities, certifications in First Aid/CPR, firearms training (to receive Personal Acquisition Licence), operating motorized field equipment such as boats and chainsaws, and interacting with future employers. The canoe trip, which tests students' teamwork and outdoor skills, is a highlight for many.



Decolonizing Learning researchers and Elders hosted by Aurora College



Researchers and Elders gathered near Fort Smith August 29-31 to discuss 'Decolonizing Learning' projects and approaches.

Aurora College and Aurora Research Institute recently hosted an on-the-land gathering with Indigenous Elders and research partners from the University of Alberta, University of New Brunswick, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, and Toronto District School Board at Kettle Point, Wood Buffalo National Park, near Fort Smith as part of their research project, Stories of Hope: Decolonizing Learning in Canada.

Stories of Hope: Decolonizing Learning in Canada is a two-year project, led by Aurora College and funded through a \$240,000 Partnership Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Initiated by Principal Investigator Dave Porter, Director Thebacha Campus, and Sarah Rosolen, Manager, South Slave Research Center, this was the first research award Aurora College received from SSHRC after becoming eligible for funding in 2014. SSHRC is the federal agency that promotes and supports post-secondary research and research training in the humanities and social sciences.

Elders and academics gathered August 29-31 to share progress on their studies and activities documenting how decolonizing education is happening across the

country. Current and proposed projects include: providing supports to teachers to incorporate Indigenous Learnings into revamped science curriculae; providing on-the-land learning opportunities for students; introducing traditional Indigenous ceremonies and cultural practices into mainstream classrooms; developing books and learning resources based on and inspired by Indigenous cultures, experiences, and knowledge; evaluating Residential School Awareness curriculum to ensure there was authentic engagement by survivors; offering Indigenous Art classes (that include visual and performing arts, music, storytelling) in mainstream high schools as an alternative to segmented Arts classes (i.e. music, drama, dance, visual arts, etc. as separate entities); as well as using Indigenous research and reporting techniques when undertaking academic research.

Currently, in all areas of Canada including the northern territories, there are significant gaps between the educational and employment success rates of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Many scholars and community leaders argue that decolonizing the education system has the potential to re-engage Indigenous youth in learning, and

empower them to achieve greater success. Decolonizing education systems involves rethinking the way schooling is delivered, including the curriculum, methodologies, and relationships with communities.

Jane Arychuk, President of Aurora College, says the project is an excellent fit with Aurora College. "This project addresses current needs for educators in the NWT and across Canada to support educational opportunities for Indigenous learners. It will develop and strengthen decolonizing efforts within our instructional staff and create new knowledge that will support pre-service teachers. Not only will it guide our instruction as a whole as we further move towards decolonizing our programs, but these findings will enhance educational experiences for students from coast to coast to coast."

The Partnership Development Grant which Aurora College received is given, in part, to design and test new collaborative approaches to research that may result in models that can be adapted by others, or that have the potential to be scaled up to a regional, national or international level. Aurora College is the only institution in the NWT eligible to apply for and receive SSHRC funding.

Astronaut candidate in Yellowknife

“Start by doing what’s necessary, then do what’s possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” – St. Francis of Assisi.

Those were the words Capt. Nathalie Sleno shared with Developmental Studies students in Yellowknife in May as she discussed her life and her recent experience with the candidacy process used to choose Canada’s next astronauts. Capt. Sleno beat out thousands of other hopefuls to make it onto the final shortlist of 12. Two individuals from that list were chosen to be Canada’s next astronauts.

Capt. Sleno is a pilot and a medical doctor with the Canadian Armed Forces, and has experience in aeromedical issues and concerns. Stationed in Yellowknife, she is also the mother of seven children.

Asked why she wanted to be an astronaut, she replied: “It would be the greatest achievement—and the ultimate experience—to participate in the forefront



Capt. Nathalie Sleno, one of the final contenders in the Canadian Astronaut selection process earlier this year, addresses DS students in Yellowknife.

Photo credit: Jodi Brennan

of science. To be so closely involved in the greatest frontier, as we continue to push limits and pursue knowledge, would be a dream come true. It serves humanity as a

whole, without borders or division. What is gained through space exploration is gained for the whole human race. I would only dream of being so privileged.”

Innovative programming in community of Whatì Created to combat negatives from all-season road



The community of Whatì and several partners are working together to develop programs to reduce criminal activity as all-season road is being constructed.

Progress and change can bring both positives and negatives, and the construction of an all-season road to Whatì is no exception. Within the next two to four years, the community will be connected year-round to Highway 3 (near Behchokò).

The new road will bring economic opportunities, ease travel for community members and visitors, and reduce the cost of good and supplies coming into Whatì. Especially as the re-supply window via winter roads shortens with ever-shorter and warmer winters, all-season access will

be an economic boon.

At the same time, community members have expressed apprehension and concern that the road will also bring an increase in social problems, as it will be easier for individuals to transport drugs and alcohol into the dry community, fueling and increasing addictions and related social issues.

In order to get ahead of the potential issues and their root causes, the community of Whatì has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with several partners to develop programming aimed

at reducing potential criminal activity with focused training, education, and building life skills.

While programming will be geared towards individuals who have a criminal history, and helping them build skills that will help them find positive alternatives, the courses will also be open to any interested member of the community. Courses will include topics such as family violence, parenting, and addictions.

Partners to the MOU include the Community Government of Whatì, Aurora College, the RCMP, the Tłı̄cho Government, and the Tłı̄cho Community Services Agency.

Whatì Chief Alfonz Nitsiza notes that “these courses are a result of a strong partnership between the RCMP and our Government. We know there will be a lasting change in the community and our people.”

Pending successful implementation of the courses, the program will be being considered for extension to the rest of the Tłı̄cho region. Statistics on changes to local crime rates, if any, will be gathered by the RCMP, who will also survey clients. It is anticipated that these programs will help prepare Whatì socially to manage the opening of the Tłı̄cho all-season road.

BSN celebrates 2017 Preceptor of the Year

Raylene Porter, a registered nurse on the obstetrical unit at Stanton Hospital, and a graduate of Aurora College’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, was chosen as the Aurora College BSN 2017 Preceptor of the Year.

Preceptors are registered nurses who are teachers, role models, and mentors for each BSN student while they are on practicum placements. Preceptors are essential to the BSN program, particularly in the senior years.

Each year in celebration of National Nursing Week, BSN faculty and students, recognize the dedication and commitment of the Registered Nurse preceptors. Fourth-year students are invited to nominate a preceptor. Preceptors are nominated based on their commitment and substantial contribution to nursing education. Criteria include the preceptor’s ability to: go over and above expectations in promoting student learning and achievement; serve as an outstanding role model for registered nursing practice; promote the preceptor role among colleagues in practice; and demonstrate excellence in teaching/learning as a preceptor.

Porter was nominated by 2017 BSN graduate Ashley Arychuk. Arychuk wrote



Preceptor of the Year, Raylene Porter (left) with BSN graduate Ashley Arychuk.

of Raylene’s consistent contribution to nursing education stating: “It was clear from the beginning of this preceptorship Raylene’s goal was not to sculpt me into a ‘mini-me’ of her practice, but to foster my own growth as a future registered nurse. She did this by nurturing my critical thinking and independence through discussion and

supporting my prioritization and decision-making skills. From day one, Raylene challenged me in the most supportive and genuine way possible- her way of being encouraged me to work harder to garner knowledge in this specialty area...Raylene’s dedication to further education in the area of maternal-child nursing is inspiring”.

Centre for Mine & Industry Training construction underway

Construction is underway on the new \$10 million Centre for Mine & Industry Training (CMIT) at Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith.

The Centre will focus on the development, delivery and maintenance of both mining-related curriculum and the Heavy Equipment Operator program.

The Centre will offer training for the mining and industrial sectors using state of the art technology and current curriculum.

The stand-alone structure will contain several vehicle bays, classroom and office space, and areas to house all mining equipment, simulators, and other training-related equipment.

Classrooms and shop sessions will be brought into one building, which will be more efficient and will benefit students. Programs that will be delivered from the Centre include Heavy Equipment Operator,

Introduction to the Mining Industry, Surface Miner, Mineral Processing Operator Trainee, Introduction to Underground Mining, and Underground Miner.

Locating the Centre in Fort Smith will allow students to access affordable and available student housing, as well as provide access to supports at the campus, such as other trades facilities and shops, instructional staff, tutoring, and counselling.



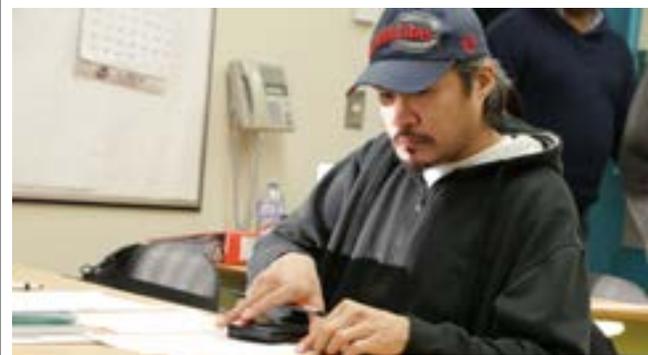


Aurora College

Education for our North

skilled graduates for in-demand NWT careers

- Nurses and Health Care Professionals
- Environmental/Wildlife Officers & Managers
- Finance Officers & Clerks
- Marketing Officers
- Personal Support Workers
- Skilled Tradespeople
- Administrative Managers & Assistants
- Supply & Project Management Professionals
- Heavy Equipment Operators
- Underground & Surface Miner Training



Phone Toll-Free:

Yellowknife: 1-866-291-4866

Thebacha: 1-866-266-4966

Aurora: 1-866-287-2655

Email: info@auroracollege.nt.ca • www.auroracollege.nt.ca

