

## Mission

Demonstrate leadership in the delivery of relevant and meaningful education and research rooted in strong connections to Northern land, tradition, community and people.



# 2020/2021

## CONVOCATION

Thebacha Campus

**June 11, 2021**

## Administrator's Message

On behalf of Aurora College, I am pleased to extend our sincere congratulations to the graduating classes of 2020 and 2021. We are celebrating both years together as COVID-19 prevented us from officially recognizing our graduates last year.

Convocation Ceremonies are an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the achievements of those who have worked so hard to achieve their academic goals. The dreams of Northerners are as vast and diverse as the north itself, and Aurora College is pleased to play a role in helping our students achieve those dreams.

I want to thank all of our students for choosing Aurora College. We are honoured every year by your drive and by the sacrifices you make to build a better future for yourselves, your families, and your communities.

Congratulations to the Aurora College Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021!

Denny Rodgers, Public Administrator, Aurora College

## President's Message

Congratulations Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021! You have persevered through an unusual and especially challenging set of circumstances and are now celebrating your success!

The parchment you receive is a testament to the high-quality education you obtained from Aurora College. Be proud as an Aurora College alumnus – you are joining the ranks of thousands of graduates who now successfully live and contribute to the vitality of NWT.

This ceremony marks the completion of one step on your educational journey, and I encourage you to regularly review your next steps. Even if you are going directly into employment, it is estimated that the average person changes their career at least five times during their working life. Post-secondary education is a lifelong journey, and learning doesn't end just because your program has finished. We look forward to supporting you again as you continue to upgrade your skills, change careers and adapt to evolving technologies. As Aurora College transforms into a polytechnic university, we will offer new and enhanced programs that will continue to prepare Northerners to succeed in their chosen careers.

Thank you for choosing Aurora College to pursue your post-secondary goals. Go forth proudly to help build a stronger and more vibrant territory. Congratulations!

Andy Bevan, President, Aurora College

## Valedictorian - Ceremony 2

### Camilia Zoe-Chocolate

Camilia Zoe-Chocolate is a Tłıchq citizen, the daughter of the late Lucy and Johnny Zoe-Chocolate, and a proud mother to four children Melanie, Katelynn, Christian, and Noah. She is fluent in her Indigenous Tłıchq language and was born and raised in the community of Behchokò, NT. She spent half of her childhood living on the land with her traditional parents who trapped and hunted for a living.

Camilia's professional experiences include work with Tłıchq Government, Dene Nation, Ecology North, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, BHP Billiton, and Diavik Diamond Mines. She has experience working in Traditional, Indigenous Knowledge and wildlife research. For the past two summers, she was a caribou researcher in a remote tundra camp, and she is a current board member of Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and to Arctic Council's Conservation Arctic Flora and Fauna as a representative of the Arctic Athabaskan Council. Camilia has also graduated from the Natural Resource Technology Program at Aurora College. And she was a board member of the Wekwéezhi Land and Water Board member from 2009 to 2012.

Camilia is appreciative of how her parents raised her on the land with her family of nine children. She loves drum dances, community feasts, and spending time with her family. She also enjoys camping, hiking, photography, collecting plants, and canoeing.

Camilia believes in the importance of education as she is quoted "I have come a long way to be who I am today, a strong Tłıchq woman who wants to inspire and educate our northern youth as well as the give strength to their Indigenous identity just as my traditional and resilient parents have done for me".



## Valedictorian - Ceremony 1

### Ryanna Bourke

Ryanna Bourke was born in Inuvik, NT to Shauna Bourke (Freddie & Bella Greenland) and Matt Bourke (Sam and Rosalie Bourke). She has lived in several locations throughout Northern and Western Canada, but considers Fort Smith, NT her home.

After graduating from P.W.K High School in 2007, Ryanna explored her interests through various career choices, extracurricular activities and academic study – basically a human tumbleweed.

In 2013, she obtained her Veterinary Assistant Certificate and decided to take some time off from school to work. In 2017 she was blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Crimson, who gave her the motivation she needed to once again pursue her post-secondary education.

In 2018/2019 Ryanna completed her 1st year of Business Administration and received her certificate along with an Outstanding Student Award. In 2019/2020 she achieved her Business Administration Diploma and graduated with honours. Ryanna has a passion for learning. She takes things seriously at the same time as bringing humour, creativity, and delight to her work and relationships.

After completing her program, Ryanna gained employment at Aurora College – Thebacha Campus. She started as a Summer Student in the Department of Finance and once her term was completed, she became a Financial Services Assistant and is still working there today. The courses Ryanna took in Business Administration at Aurora College prepared her for a career in finance.

Due to COVID-19, the convocation ceremony last year at Aurora College was postponed along with many other institutions across the globe. Therefore, this year's convocation is extra special as it acknowledges the accomplishments of students for both academic years. Ryanna is honored to be the Valedictorian for Aurora College's graduating class.



## Program of Events

**Processional**  
Dene Drummers

**O Canada**

**Prayer Song**  
Dene Drummers

**Opening Prayer**  
Elder Edith Bourke

**Master of Ceremonies**  
Dave Porter, Director  
Thebacha Campus

**President's Address**  
Andy Bevan, President  
Aurora College

### **Presentation of Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees**

**Valedictory Address**  
Ryanna Bourke – Ceremony 1  
Camilla Zoe-Chocolate – Ceremony 2

**Closing Remarks**

**Recessional**

# Recipients of Certificates, Diplomas & Degrees

## Ceremony 1 -11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### *School of Business and Leadership*

#### **Office Administration Certificate (2021)**

Megan Bertrand	Fort Smith
Tomoko Otsuyama	Fort Smith

#### **Office Administration Diploma (2020)**

Faye Baton	Déjūņę
Delores Bourke	Fort Smith
Lyndie Bourque	Fort Smith
Shelly Lafferty	Fort Smith
Tanya Lafferty	Fort Resolution
Lana McNeill	Fort Smith
Miranda Taureau	Fort McPherson

#### **Office Administration Diploma (2021)**

Blake Gardebois	Fort Good Hope
Stephanie Mercredi	Fort Smith
Jodyann Brown Miltenberger	Fort Smith

#### **Business Administration Certificate (2021)**

Leroy Omilgoytuk	Inuvik
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#### **Business Administration Diploma (2020)**

Ryanna Bourke	Fort Smith
Fredelle Deneyoua	Hay River
Cameron Ziemann	Fort Smith

#### **Business Administration Diploma (2021)**

Brittany Bourke	Fort Smith
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## Ceremony 2 - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

### *School of Arts & Science*

#### **Environment & Natural Resources Technology Diploma (2020)**

Bonnie Deschene	Norman Wells
Alex James	Fort Smith
Dylan Jones	Fort Good Hope
Brett Potter	Richmond Hill, ON
Jenni Watts	Fort Smith

#### **Environment & Natural Resources Technology Diploma (2021)**

Thor Amundson	Fort Simpson
Shannon Cazon	Fort Simpson
Shonto Catholique	Łutselk'e
Ian Gauthier	Fort Smith
Jarod Tuckey	Fort Smith

### *School of Education*

#### **Adult Education Certificate (2021)**

Valentina deKrom	Fort Smith
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#### **Bachelor of Education Degree (2020)**

Nadine Kodakin	Déjūņę
Denise Zoe	Behchokò

#### **Bachelor of Education Degree (2021)**

Camilia Zoe-Chocolate	Behchokò
Joni Tsatchia	Wekweèłł

### *School of Health & Human Services*

#### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (2021)**

Brittany Tourangeau	Fort Smith
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