

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Information and Application Package



COLLÈGE
AURORA
COLLEGE

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

VISION

Through the transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university, we will establish a university in the North and for the North that creates equitable opportunities for residents across the Northwest Territories to reach their full potential.

MISSION

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

VALUES



RESPECT

We care for one another and foster relationships based on trust, respect and fairness. We respect others and the land, water, air and animals.



INCLUSIVENESS AND DIVERSITY

We foster a culture of equity and inclusion that celebrates different ways of being, knowing and doing.



INNOVATION

We inspire and nurture innovative thinking, continuous discovery and creative expression.



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

We hold ourselves to high standards of ethical behaviour and take responsibility for our actions. We recognize and protect the right of the individual to search for knowledge, wherever knowledge is to be found.

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Aurora College Act was recently amended to establish a new tricameral governance system that will help Aurora College become increasingly effective, efficient and sustainable. Due to this new system of governance, Aurora College will also be better positioned to identify and respond to the needs of Northern residents.

Aurora College's new governance system has three bodies that together govern the College, at arm's length from government. These bodies include the Board of Governors, the Academic Council and the Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council. Together these three bodies make decisions and recommendations on strategic direction, the business of the College, academics and research. The overarching responsibility of the Board is to establish and advance the long-term vision of Aurora College. The Board is responsible for monitoring and driving successful implementation of the College's vision, mission, and values.

The Board is responsible for the oversight of the College in the areas of facilities, finances and risk management. The Board places the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the institution with the President.

The Board plays an intermediary role between the institution and the Minister. The Board must steer the institution in a way that addresses both the unique needs of Aurora College and the public it serves.



BOARD COMPOSITION & COMPETENCIES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS COMPOSITION

The Board will have a minimum of fourteen members. These members will include:

- One instructional staff member nominated by the instructional staff
- One non-instructional staff member nominated by the non-instructional staff
- One student nominated by student council(s)
- Ten members recommended by the Board of Governors – five must be Indigenous residents of the NWT, and the Board must meet the prescribed competencies below.
- Any other members that the Minister believes would promote the prescribed competencies.
- The President of Aurora College as a non-voting member of the Board

LEGISLATED BOARD COMPETENCIES

A competency-based board will have the knowledge, skills and experience to ensure Aurora College remains effective, efficient and sustainable. The selection of members will be based on the competencies listed below. Each member does not need to possess all the competencies, rather each member may bring one or two competencies.

- membership on a board of directors
- leadership of large organizations
- financial planning
- facilities management
- post-secondary education
- reconciliation
- understanding of small and remote communities
- northern economic development
- northern social development
- public policy

The competencies are established under the Aurora College Act by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. They are reviewed every four years by the Board to ensure they reflect the needs of the institution.

THE IDEAL BOARD MEMBER

Arrive Prepared: Attend Board meetings, prepare for those meetings, and make decisions only on an informed basis.

Taking on projects and tasks: Between meetings, Board members must all put in a reasonable effort to ensure that the work of the Aurora College Board is being completed.

Putting the Aurora College community first: We must act in the best interests of the Aurora College community. Personal interests should not influence you when making decisions as a Board member.

Bringing issues forward: Ability and willingness to raise potentially controversial issues and questions in a manner that encourages dialogue and resolution.

Avoiding conflicts of interest: There must be no real or perceived conflict of interest with the Board member's responsibility to the organization.

Respecting confidentiality: We must keep all non-public information confidential (i.e., the details of some human resource or contract discussions).

Additional interpersonal skills that will benefit the Board of Governors include:

- High ethical standards and integrity at all times;
- Good judgment;
- Appreciation of the responsibilities to the public;
- Ability to be flexible, responsive and willing to consider others' opinions;
- Capable of a wide perspective on issues;
- Ability to work as a team member; and
- Strong reasoning skills.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The current Board makes recommendations to the Minister about whom to appoint based on the prescribed competencies. When doing so, the Board must identify:

- Which prescribed competencies their recommended individuals possess; and
- Prioritize which recommended members they would like appointed to the Board.

INFLUENCING FACTORS

When appointing Board members, consideration will be given to :

- Indigenous ways of being, knowing and doing when comparing the skills people have in each of the competencies; and
- That the composition of the Board reflects the unique and diverse values, histories and people of the Northwest Territories.

INSTRUCTIONAL AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF SELECTION

Both instructional and non-instructional staff will be selected by their peers using a democratic process that will be outlined by Aurora College.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

The Commissioner will, on the advice of Cabinet, select the Chair of the Aurora College Board of Governors from among the appointed members.

APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIR

The Board will select the Vice-Chair from amongst the appointed members.

ABOUT AURORA COLLEGE

Aurora College is a small post-secondary education institution located in Canada's Northwest Territories (NWT) and is well on its way to becoming a polytechnic university. If you are appointed as a Board member, you will play an important role in shaping the future of the institution and the overall growth of post-secondary education in the NWT. For more than 50 years, Aurora College has provided quality education and research opportunities for the residents of the Northwest Territories and beyond from our three campuses and 21 community learning centres that are spread across the 1.4 million square kilometers that is the Northwest Territories.

As the only public post-secondary education institution in the Northwest Territories, we strive to meet the demands of the labour market today and into the future. We strive to help students achieve their educational goals so they can contribute to the growing knowledge economy in the North. We encourage and challenge our students to be engaged and life-long learners.

Aurora College is committed to excellence and a culture of continuous improvement. To that end we are transforming into a polytechnic university which includes the new capacity in the areas of teaching and research. This will serve as a platform for continued development and expansion of the institution.

Transformation is exciting and wide-reaching within the institution and presents an opportunity for the right Board member to make a lasting contribution to Northern social and economic development.



College Statistics:

- 1500 students annually
- Older student population
largest student group is
25 - 35 years of age
- Majority of graduates are
Indigenous
- Ranked seventh in
Research Intensity, out
of Canada's Top 50
Research Colleges
- More than 250 external
researchers supported

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW OFTEN DOES THE BOARD MEET?

Once in place, the full Board will meet at least four times per year, with at least one meeting in person. However, once the Board is established, meeting schedules may change and additional meetings may be necessary.

Additionally, Board committees will meet on a more frequent basis and Board members will be required to contribute to committees.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT OF A BOARD MEMBER?

People thinking about joining the Board should be prepared to spend the equivalent of two week-days four times a year to attend meetings, and review of agenda materials in advance of meetings. In addition, all Board members are encouraged to participate in committee work that increases the time commitment.

As well, Board members receive invitations to Aurora College events that allow them to enjoy the social and ceremonial side of life at Aurora College. The College appreciates that Board members may have other commitments and demands on their time, however participation will be encouraged.

DO BOARD MEMBERS GET PAID?

When conducting business of the Board, which includes any meeting of the Board or committees, as well as any assignment given to a member of the Board, Board members will receive:

- \$400 for each day, including travel day, that they attend to the business of the Board
- \$200 for each half day or less that they attend to the business of the Board
- Reimbursement for travel expenses will be the same as GNWT employee travel as stated in the Government of the Northwest Territories' Financial Administration Manual.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPLICATION FORM

To submit your name for consideration in the nomination process, please complete the application below and attach your resume or other documents that outlines your knowledge, skills and experience.

To speak to someone about this application please contact Aurora College at (867) 872-7009 or email hmeacock@auroracollege.ca.

Please note, the following are not eligible to be members of the Board:

- An employee of a department of the Government of the Northwest Territories;
- A member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories or another territory or province;
- A member of a governing council of an Indigenous government
- A member of the Parliament of Canada;
- A member of a municipal council; or
- An employee of Aurora College other than one instructional staff member nominated by instructional staff and one non-instructional staff member nominated by non-instructional staff.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Date:		
Full Name:		
Adress:		
Community/City:	Province/Territory:	Postal Code:
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	Email:
Preferred Contact Method:		

COMMITTEES

There are four sub-committees of the Board. All Board members are asked to select a committee on which to serve. Please indicate your committee preference. Please note that, while preferences are taken into consideration, members may be assigned to a committee to ensure appropriate balance and representation.

Committee	Yes	No
Executive Committee		
Governance Committee		
Audit and Finance Committee		
Planning and Accountability Committee		
Please indicate if you would consider taking on the role of Chair of the Board of Governors		

COMPETENCIES

Please check each of the competencies that you possess and the level of knowledge or experience. Competency descriptions can be found in Appendix A of this application form.

Competency	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Membership on a Board of Directors - Candidates possessing this competency have experience as a member of a board of directors for an organization or institution.			
Leadership of Large Organizations - Candidates possessing this competency have led organizations as a senior executive member or a chair of a board of directors for an organization or institution.			
Financial Planning - Candidates possessing this competency have experience in budget processes and/or financial planning for an organization or institution.			
Facilities Management - Candidates possessing this competency have experience in facilities or construction management.			
Post-Secondary Education - Candidates possessing this competency have instructional or leadership experience at a post-secondary institution.			

Reconciliation - Candidates possessing this competency understands reconciliation as a commitment to substantive and cohesive action to address Indigenous concerns through support and championing of Indigenous perspectives, cultural practices and Indigenous knowledge, effecting change and seeking to do so at the individual and institutional level.			
Understanding of Small and Remote Communities - Candidates possessing this competency have knowledge and experience in community development focusing in the areas of the needs, challenges and strengths of small and remote communities.			
Northern Economic Development - Candidates possessing this competency possess knowledge about Northern labour markets, standard of living in Northern communities and an understanding of job creation, investment and trade in the North.			
Northern Social Development - Candidates possessing this competency have knowledge about drives sustainable societies, as well as experience in empowering marginalized groups to improve their social position and to acquire their rightful place in society.			
Public Policy - Candidates possessing this competency have knowledge and experience in identifying when a policy is an appropriate solution to a problem, an understanding of the policy development process, and the ability to assess and evaluate policies and provide guidance and direction.			

DESIGNATED GROUP SELF-IDENTIFICATION

Indigenous Person residing in the NWT

For the purposes of applicant tracking, Indigenous means a person who is recognized as “one of the aboriginal peoples of Canada” within the meaning of section 35 the Constitution Act, 1982, which further states that for the purposes of the Constitution, the “aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples of Canada”.

Based on the description above:

Are you an Indigenous Person residing in the NWT? Yes/No (Please Circle)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide details regarding your interest in serving on the Board of Governors.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I understand that I am always responsible for disclosing any obligation, commitment, relationship, or interest regarding my participation or affiliation with any organization that may create an actual or perceived conflict with the interests of Aurora College. Prior to serving on the Board and during any term of office, Board members must openly disclose a potential, real or perceived conflict of interest as soon as the issue arises and before the Board or its committees deal with the matter at issue. By submitting this form, I confirm that I am not in a conflict of interest which would prevent my nomination to the Board and that I shall disclose any conflict of interest that may develop in the future as soon as possible.

X _____



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