TABLED DOCUMENT 262-18(2) TABLED ON FEBRUARY 2, 2017



# Aurora 2015-2016



## **MANDATE AND PURPOSE**

(Aurora College Act R.S. N.W. T. 1988, cA-7, s3)

The purpose of Aurora College is to deliver adult and post-secondary education, including the delivery of university-level programs and granting of prescribed university degrees and applied bachelor degrees.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Aurora College is focused on Student Success and is committed to supporting the development of our Northern society through excellence in education, training and research that is culturally sensitive and responsive to the people we serve.

## **OUR VALUES**

Together, we are creating a vibrant, Northern college that is committed to excellence in education and research and fosters understanding and respect among all Northern people.

We will continue to do this by:

- Serving students in the best way possible, offering a seamless transition between high school, work, college and university;
- Nurturing critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities;
- Offering a full spectrum of post-secondary education, qualifying Northerners to work or to go on to further education anywhere in Canada;
- Respecting and celebrating Aboriginal cultures and linking modern and traditional lifestyles;
- Supporting innovation in education and research;
- Ensuring research and post-secondary education are well integrated, through strong partnerships with industry, communities, governments and other educational institutions;
- Recognizing our role in supporting the governance and economic development of Northern communities;
- Attracting and retaining highly qualified Northern staff and faculty; and
- Fostering an environment of excellence in which staff, faculty and students can work and learn.

# Table of Contents

Board of Governors' Message	4
Message from the President	5
Highlights	6
Education and Training Division	9
Community and Extensions Division	20
Aurora Research Institute	27
Student Support Services	31
Enrolments	34
Aurora College Spring Convocation	36
Supplementary Information	38
Audited Financial Information	40



## Aurora College Board of Governors' Message



Research is а Aurora (ARI) Institute facilitates and conducts research in the Northwest Territories, and acts as a hub

territory's research capacity through discovery, outreach, and education at its three regional the Social Sciences and Humanities Research centres in Inuvik, Yellowknife, and Fort Smith. Territory-wide research administration is and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). provided by ARI headquarters in Inuvik.

has been undertaken by staff of Aurora College and ARI, as well as the members of the Board of Aurora College's ability to retain northern-Governors, to ensure that policies were either introduced or updated in order to elevate this a significant recognition of the developing institution's approach to research ethics and procedures. Topics such as academic freedom and ethical conduct when dealing with animal and human subjects were addressed in both research and the Aurora Research Institute policy and procedure. As of July 1, 2015, the Research Advisory Council (RAC), a standing committee created by the Board of Governors secured our first funding grants, including

(BOG), was formed. Membership consists of both vital component BOG representatives and external members of Aurora College, who have a background in various areas of as it is of any science and traditional knowledge. The main post-secondary responsibilities of RAC are to provide advice institution. As the to the College and ARI on the development of research division of an annual research agenda, to help ensure the Aurora College, the College's and ARI's active participation in the Research NWT Science Agenda, to promote a Canadian northern and circumpolar research community, and to prepare an annual report on the state of scientific and research issues in the NWT.

The rigourous standards that are being applied in research ethics and administration have allowed Aurora College to successfully of northern knowledge. ARI advances the apply to hold funds from two of the major research granting organizations in Canada -Council (SSHRC) and the Natural Sciences This "institutional eligibility" is a notable During the past few years, a great deal of work accomplishment, as it allows faculty and staff to access research funds and increases based research capacity. It also represents research capacity within Aurora College and the NWT. Another important benefit is that the research is allowing us to more closely link with programs at Aurora College.

In the first half of 2016, Aurora College staff

## **Aurora College Board of Governors**

(as of June 30, 2016)

Kathy Tsetso Mary Beckett Lynn Napier-Buckley Vacant Vacant Vacant Vacant Bambi Amos Shania Clark

Dehcho Representative Beaufort Delta Representative South Slave Representative Yellowknife Representative North Slave Representative Sahtu Representative Elder Representative Staff Representative **Student Representative** 

## Research **Advisory Council**

(as of June 30, 2016)

Mary Beckett Kathy Tsetso Dr. Andre Corriveau Dr. John England Dr. Allice Legat Jim Martin Andrew Applejohn

Chairperson

**Internal Member** Health Sciences Representative **Physical Sciences Representative** Traditional Knowledge Representative Social Sciences Representative **GNWT Science Representative** 

NSERC "Connect and Engage" grants, and within our instructional staff and create new a SSHRC "Community and College Social knowledge that will support pre-service Innovation Fund" award. NSERC grants have teachers in the Northwest Territories. The funded such areas as workshops looking at findings will guide our instruction and will the viability of greenhouses in the far North, enhance educational experiences for students and collaborating with NWT Power Corporation from coast to coast to coast. to examine energy and infrastructure options As Chair of the Board of Governors, I am related to climate change. The SSHRC award excited by the tremendous strides Aurora provides funds to work with several post College has made recently in this area and look secondary partners to study how schools and forward to seeing what the future holds. institutions are decolonizing education and will engage Indigenous and community knowledge Kathy Tsetso holders in community-based research. It will Chairperson, develop and strengthen decolonizing efforts Aurora College Board of Governors

## Message from the President



December 15, members of the public may become frustrated On 2015, Truth at what they perceive to be a lack of movement the Reconciliation or a too-slow pace. For me, as President of and Commission of Canada Aurora College and as someone who has made (TRC) tabled its report in this beautiful territory home for more than 30 the House of Commons, years, I understand that frustration, but firmly culminating six years of believe that navigating the process responsibly work. The Commission's and correctly is more important than rushing stated goal was "to guide in order to make a show of guick progress. As TRC Chair Justice Murray Sinclair has said: and inspire Aboriginals and Canadians in "Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships. There are no shortcuts." а process leading toward reconciliation We do not want to take shortcuts; we want to do

and renewed relationships based on mutual this right.

One thing I can guarantee is that during this process there will be times that we make Among the 94 items in the TRC's Calls for mistakes and don't get it guite right. However, we are committed to the process of reconciliation and becoming more respectful of and consistent with the needs and values of the people we serve. The majority of our learners and our communities are Indigenous, and it is imperative educational environment that supports, reflects, In addition to the TRC recommendations, and is respectful of our students. While we have incorporated numerous traditional and cultural elements into our operations and our curriculum, there is still work to be done. We can do better, and we will do better. It is my desire that as we move forward in this journey of reconciliation and healing that we show courage and determination while embracing truth, honesty, and respect.

understanding and respect." Action are a number that pertain directly to education, language and culture, and education for reconciliation. As a northern post-secondary institution, we have been examining which of the recommendations pertain to Aurora College and Aurora Research Institute, and how we go about implementing those recommendations in that we listen to their voices as we create an a meaningful way. Aurora College is also working to integrate the seven principles of the Indigenous Education Protocol developed by Colleges and Institutes Canada, to which we became a signator in June 2015. As we move forward developing our next 10-year strategic plan, both the TRC recommendations and the principles of the Indigenous Education Protocol will factor significantly in our views of the future.

Incorporating them will be a journey, and will Jane Arychuk not happen overnight. Some students, staff, and **Aurora College President** 

# HIGHLIGHTS

There was much cause for celebration at Aurora College in 2015-16, including staff members and students receiving prestigious awards, academic excellence recognized for several students, and exciting research taking place through the Aurora Research Institute.

## **College & partners receive Premier's Award**

Aurora College and the seven regional NWT Aboriginal Skills and Employment Strategy (ASETS) organizations were honoured with a 2016 Premier's Award for Collaboration.

The group includes Akaitcho Territory Government, Dehcho First Nations, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Sahtu Dene Council, Northwest Territory Metis Nation, and Tlicho Government. It was chosen for the prestigious award due to shared efforts all parties have Essential Skills (LES) courses. responsive and targeted to related to a specific topic, regional needs.



Representatives from Aurora College and NWT ASETS organizations pose with Premier Robert McLeod upon receiving the 2016 Premier's Award for Collaboration.

A major success of the such as literacy, numeracy, partnership is a series of six- and computer use - that are week Literacy and Embedded made to identify, develop and The courses were developed deliver adult training programs for northern community adult throughout the NWT that are learners, and teach skills as well as embedded skills -

transferable.

The courses were designed for learners to build skills for actual work positions, to build community capacity in the north, and as a platform on which to build additional skills and education. By the end of 2015, the courses had been delivered more than 80 times in at least 25 communities. Completion rates for LES courses are higher than for traditional Adult Learning and Basic Education courses in NWT as well.

The seven LES courses are: Introduction to Office Skills, Start Your Own Small Business, Small Business Funding and Marketing, Introduction to Early Learning and Child Care, Construction Labourer Basics, Ready to Work NWT, and Introduction to Retail and Hospitality. Moving forward, the partnership will continue to research ways to secure funding for on-going delivery of the new, highly successful Literacy and Embedded Essential Skills courses to NWT learners.

# New mining programs, donations from mines

With funding from GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment through the Mine Training Society, two mining programs were developed in 2015: Introduction to the Mining Industry and Surface Miner Training. Representatives from the mining industry - including De Beers Canada (Snap Lake), Dominion Diamond Ekati Corporation, Diavik Dominion Mines (2012) Inc., and the NWT Mine Training Society - were active participants in creating

Introduction to the Mining

Industry can be offered in

communities, and Surface Miner

Training will be delivered at

Mine Training Society provided

the new programs.

Thebacha Campus.

First Class - All ten students from around the NWT who began the first delivery of Introduction to the Mining Industry completed.

Aurora College with cab simulator modules for a haul truck and a front end loader for the Surface Miner Training program. College Aurora received equipment donations from the three major NWT mining With funding from CanNor, the companies. The Mine Training Society and Aurora College held



Personal Support Worker Certificate students from the Beaufort-Delta and Sahtu regions attended the one-year program at Aurora Campus in Inuvik.

## Certificate and diploma programs offered at Aurora Campus, in Tulita

programs are being offered the community.

Inuvik and Beaufort-Delta twice in Inuvik. In partnership residents were able study with the Sahtu Divisional closer to home in 2015-16, Education Council and the Decolonizing as two certificate programs - Department of Education, Personal Support Worker and Culture and Employment, the Stories of Hope, will involve Early Childhood Development first year of a two-year, full-- were delivered full-time at time Aboriginal Language and building and sharing among five Aurora Campus. Deliveries were Culture Instructor diploma Canadian research institutions. made possible through funding program was offered in Tulita. and support from regional The six participants serve as partners. Each of the one-year role models for the youth and SSHRC since becoming eligible

## **New Access Programs created Better links to parent programs**

programs provided several Access (OCAP) and University recommendations improve the design and - will replace the seven delivery. "Access" programs programs previously offered, provide students academically beginning September 2016. for entrance into selected The programs have been certificate, diploma, degree, streamlined and broadened skills to succeed in postsecondary programs; and specific specialty courses stronger academic links to will continue to be eligible for individual

A recent, in-depth review programs. Two new programs of Aurora College Access - Occupations and College to and College Access (UCAP) and trades programs. Key to prepare students for more recommendations were: the post-secondary options than academic skills most needed before. Students will choose by students were writing and either OCAP or UCAP, and then research: students required choose a Career Path within a number of common that program, depending upon which post-secondary program they want to enter. Students enrolled in Access should be created to provide programs at Aurora College

post-secondary Student Financial Assistance.



a celebration to thank DeBeers Canada, Diavik Dominion Mines (2012) Inc., and Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. for the donation of a haul truck, scoop tram, and a Toyota multi-utility vehicle. Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. also donated a grader for use in mining programs.

## Decolonizing **Education SSHRC** grant

Aurora College and Aurora Research Institute were awarded nearly \$240,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to work with several partners to study how schools and institutions are decolonizing education.

The two-year project, Learning in Communities Across Canada: collaborative knowledge This is the first award Aurora College has received from for funding in 2014.



Three Aklavik students completed their Traditional Arts Certificate. They also received the Aurora Cup award for overcoming obstacles and persevering in their studies.

## **Traditional Arts Certificate** at Aklavik Learning Centre

the Learning Centre. In total, beaver, fox, lynx and hare), one or more of the courses, tufting, tool making (e.g. certificates at the convocation and antlers, ulus, fish hooks, 2016. In addition to courses and porcupine quill artwork, in the History of Traditinal traditional footwear making, Arts. Development, and Computers, beadwork and embellishments, classes included: moose hide bush and tundra crafts.

Between 2012 and 2016, tanning (traditional stretching, the Traditional Arts Certificate scraping and smoking), fur program was offered through tanning (stretching, cutting) Aklavik Community and tanning animals such as 18 students participated in moose and caribou hair and three received their hide tanning tools from bone ceremony in Inuvik in May braided dog whips), fish scale Marketing, Product pattern making and sewing,

## Post-graduate certificate popular

introduced the Post Graduate from current and prospective Certificate in Remote Nursing, students has been positive. which prepares Registered The program is offered in Nurses to function in an a combined delivery format, expanded practice role as primarily by distance, using community health nurses in web-based some of Canada's most isolated teleconference classes. regions.

The 15-credit, year program is offered in Yellowknife, which meets the collaboration with the NWT requirements for hands-on skill Department of Health & Social labs, field trips and skill-based Services. The first intake of examinations.

In 2016, Aurora College students was full, and feedback

Moodle and

Students also attend a threeone- week on-site component in

## Video-conference pilot a success

The School of Business and Leadership's videoconferencing pilot project continued in 2015-2016 with four Business Administration and Office Administration courses offered using the technology. As the goal is to offer all BA and OA courses through videoconferencing in 2016-2017, a great deal of work was done evaluating the pilot project and preparing for the full implementation.

## **NABE** funding extended 1 year

The Northern Adult Basic Education Program (NABE) is a multi-million dollar, multiyear program created by the Government of Canada's Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) to address the unique challenges faced by Northerners in participating in the labour market. It was orginally funded to be delivered by the three northern colleges from April 1, 2012 until March 31, 2016. The federal government extended the program for one fiscal year to give the colleges time to seek other funders and sources of revenue for the popular program. NABE includes educational activities that assist adult learners in achieving sufficient levels of literacy and essential skills to obtain a job or benefit from further training.



# Education and Training Division



Aurora College's Education & Training Division is comprised of:

- School of Arts & Science
- School of Business & Leadership
- School of Education
- School of Health & Human Services
- School of Trades, Apprenticeship and Industrial Training



# School of Arts & Science



Studying aquatic life samples at Summer Field Camp.

## **Resources Technology**

Traditional Partnerships with both industry at 12 to 15. Six students to be strong, and these 2016, most of whom are through direct involvement in Aboriginal organizations.

Gathering mineral samples for analysis.

# work. Employability remains

Students in the two-year for graduates; a handful have at Aurora Campus in 2015diploma program attend chosen to work seasonally to several field camps, which pursue Bachelor of Science on a three-year cycle, with are instructed by community degrees. Enrolment and 2015-2016 offering the Access Elders, regional experts, student retention continues and Aurora College staff in a to increase with 12 students manner designed to integrate continuing into second year scientific methodology with and first year applications at intake at Aurora Campus will Knowledge. Thebacha Campus remaining be September 2016. and government continue received their diplomas in ENRTP - Thebacha Campus provide much added value employed in the field with Field camps continue to be a to academic programming industry, government and

## **Environment and Natural** classroom activities and field **ENRTP - Aurora Campus**

strong across the territory There was no program offered 2016 as the program operates program, which academically prepares students to enter the diploma program. The next

highlight for students. During the summer field camps at Tsu



Hands-on study of small mammals at Summer Field camp.

in limnology, water sampling, forestry, geology and ecology, demonstrations and teachings. canoe and portage trip.

Every year ENRT students at and survival techniques.

Lake, students develop skill sets the classroom in a practical students complete a self-directed setting on the land, and work research project in consultation with wildlife with local hunter with instructional staff, and and map and GPS navigation Magloire Paulette. In 2015collaborative Aboriginal, industry, techniques. Local Elders, such as 16, population analyses and and government partners. Jane Dragon, make a significant segregation methods were impact on students at Tsu Lake conducted on muskox by **Community Based Training** with their traditional skills qualitative observation and aerial surveys. Students also The Environmental Monitor First year students travel the spend two nights demonstrating Training Program delivered Talston River for a multi-day their on-the-land emergency in partnership with local skills such as shelter building communities and industry, and trains participants to Thebacha Campus complete In addition to regular studies, work with private industry, a Winter Field Camp as a students are trained in firearms, government agencies and culmination of their studies. first aid, and boat safety. As environmental organizations They are able to apply the a final project, and using the such as land and water boards. skills they have learned in skills they learn during the year, It was not offered in 2015-16.

Limnology is part of the ENRTP curriculum.

# School of Business & Leadership

The School of Business and Leadership offers the Business Administration (BA) Program, the Office Administration (OA) Program, and the Northern Leadership Development Program (NLDP).

Graduates of the BA and OA programs are highly sought after as employees by Aboriginal Governments, the GNWT, the Government of Canada, businesses (large and small), and non-profit organizations. The NLDP provides leadership training for employees of business and industry-related NWT organizations.

In order to ensure that Aurora College students continue to receive the most current business and administrative The videoconferencing pilot in their fields of study and in education, reviews of both undertaken, beginning in 2013-14. in the review processes and through that would provide students with an education that would enable them to obtain relevant Faculty members continued employment or to continue to be involved in professional their education.

of Aurora College graduates and professional credentials. were enrolled in the School of Two Business and Leadership, Atotal Educational Leave in 2015of 18 Business Administration 2016, working on their doctoral Certificates, nine Business Administration Diplomas, and four Office Administration PhD, while another started Certificates were awarded a PhD program. Pursuing at the spring convocation graduate degrees ensures ceremonies in 2016.



10 students completed the NLDP program in 2015-2016.

project continued in 2015- educational practices so that the BA and OA programs were 2016 with four BA and OA they can design and develop courses offered using the relevant curriculum and Students, alumni, staff technology. As the goal is to and employers participated offer all BA and OA courses videoconferencing worked to facilitate the design in 2016-2017, much work and development of a BA was done evaluating the pilot program and an OA program project and preparing for the mandatory GNWT training. full implementation.

development initiatives and conferences in order to maintain In 2015-2016, 30 percent and increase their academic instructors were on degrees. As well, one full-time casual instructor finished his that instructors stay current have been added. The new first

provide stimulating learning experiences for their students. Instructors also attended a variety of continuing education conferences and completed

Three new instructors were hired in 2015-16: a full-time BA instructor for each of Thebacha and Yellowknife North Slave Campuses, and a full-time OA instructor at Thebacha Campus.

#### **Business Administration**

The BA program review was completed in early 2015 and implemented in September 2015. An Accounting Stream and a Work Experience Option

year courses were introduced in 2015-2016, and new second vear courses will be delivered for the first time in 2016-2017 at all three campuses. The current plan is to offer both years of the BA program at all campuses each year.

The BA program continues to attract a diverse group of students, both from within the NWT and international students. Graduates from BA in 2015-16 were from Aklavik, Behchoko, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith, Gameti, Inuvik, Whati, and Yellowknife. Currently, Aurora College receives a significant number of applications for the BA program, especially in Yellowknife, that cannot be accommodated.

#### **Office Administration**

Thebacha Campus offered the OA Certificate program in 2015-16. Courses are designed to develop the skills in various types of offices and of basic office and computer unique work environments of the north. Student participated in a four-week practicum to Northern Leadership gain hands-on experience. OA graduates were from Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, Fort The NLDP is designed for Smith, and Tulita.

A consultant was hired in 2014the OA Program; the review revised program was approved



February 2016. The new first Personal Development/Coach year courses will be delivered Mentoring, in 2016-2017 and every second Skills. year after that. The second Leadership, Effective Team year courses will be delivered Leadership, Managing in the required by employees to work for the first time in 2017-2018 Middle, Problem Solving and and will also be offered every to emphasize the development other year. Beginning in 2016- Diversity in the Workplace, and 2017, Aurora Campus and Conflict Resolution. The NLDP skills that will enhance the Thebacha Campus will deliver the OA Program.

## Development

The NLDP was first delivered in 2011-2012, with 23 employees in "front line" participants from various positions in industry-related industrial related positions with organizations in the NWT and NWT organizations. Since then, 2015 to assist in the review of is relevant to employees in a further 45 participants have supervisory or management completed the program. The was completed in 2015. The roles, such as team leaders or fifth offering, with a cohort of supervisors. It consists of eight 10 participants, concluded in by the Board of Governors in 21-hour modules which include: June, 2016.



Business Administration and Office Administration courses piloted video-conference technology in preparation for full implementation in 2016-17.

Communication Effective Personal Decision Making, Culture and was significantly revised in 2015-2016; the new modules will be introduced in 2016-2017.

# School of Education

College School Aurora of Education regularly offers the following programs: Aboriginal Language and Culture Instructor Diploma, Bachelor of Education, Certificate in Adult Education, and Early Childhood Development Certificate.

#### Aboriginal Language and **Culture Instructor (ALCIP)**

In partnership with the Sahtu Divisional Education Council and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, the first year of a two-year, full-time diploma program was offered in Tulita. The classroom is situated in Chief Albert Wright School, which provides opportunities for learners to connect theory with practice. The six participants also serve as an example of life-long community. Across the NWT, a further 19 individuals are taking part-time ALCIP courses, which are delivered in conjunction and Moodle to 37 students. with various divisional education councils. In 2015-16, six parttime courses took place in Fort Smith, Hay River, K'atl'odeeche, and Tulita. Two part-time students received certificates in and in southern Canada. 2015-16. In addition, evening language courses were offered **Bachelor of Education** in Fort Smith and Ndilo. These were well received and attended This distinctive degree program by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants.

#### Adult Education



University of Saskatchewan representatives Dawn Wallin (left) Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs, Partnerships, and Research, and Chris Scribe, Director, Indian Teacher Education Program, present President Jane Arychuk with a star blanket to honour the long-term partnership between Aurora College and the University of Saskatchewan.

primarily in the evening, with four-day on-the-land classroom learning for the youth and the online computer support. There are no pre-requisites to enter the program. In 2015-16, six courses were delivered via teleconference Two completed the Certificate requirements. Students represent a broad range of ages, careers, and home communities across the northern territories

continues to support the growth and development of educators for the NWT who have a strong grounding in the traditions and cultures of the territory. The The Certificate in Adult Education Bachelor of Education (BEd) is provides the skills and knowledge offered in cooperation with the required to work with adult University of Saskatchewan (U of representatives from teacher learners. It is delivered part- S), and is recognized across the time through teleconference, country. 2015-16 began with a Canada. Aurora College's long-

experience that brought together 26 students, instructors, and local Elders. Topics explored included decolonizing education, community relationships, leadership, traditional plants and medicines, traditional cooking and sewing, and Dene games. The shared experiences provided the pre-service teachers with an opportunity to reflect on actions they can take to ensure that culture and traditional teachings are incorporated into their role as an NWT teacher, as well as to identify areas they would like to develop and explore as they grow into their roles. Program staff presented on the experience at the University of Saskatchewan's Think Indigenous conference, which was attended by educations programs across



The Honourable Alfred Moses, Minister of Education, Culture & Employment, celebrates with graduates of the Early Childhood Development Certificate Program in Inuvik.

for degree delivery with U of S was renewed. President Jane 2015-16 marked the first time Indigenous Arychuk was presented with that a full-time face-to-face a star blanket to honour the relationship. The BEd program has continued to evolve and been offered at Aurora Campus family and communities in move forward with programming and instruction that aligns with GNWT's Education Renewal Initiative.

delivery of the Early Childhood Development program has Skills and Strategy (ASETS), in response share as part of their studies.



to a need for gualified Child Care Workers in the region. Nine students graduated and are currently working in the child care field in the Beaufort-Delta. The partnership will continue for a second year in 2016-17. In addition, the regular part-time delivery continues to be offered via teleconference. During 2015-16, 60 students completed one or more of the five distance education courses or the two workshops, which took place in Hay River and Yellowknife. A further 17 learners attended the Northern Puppet workshop. The program's play-based curriculum incorporates standing partnership agreement Early Childhood Development texts and materials which use Canadian content with perspectives, including local traditional knowledge and cultures. Instructors strive to involve in Inuvik. This was made the course content as much possible through a partnership as possible and recognize the with Beaufort-Delta Aboriginal varied life experiences that Employment students bring with them and

# School of Health & Human Services

In 2015-16, the School of Health and Human Services included the following programs: Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Personal Support Worker Certificate, Post-Graduate Certificate in Remote Nursing, Social Work Diploma, and Community Health Representative Certificate.

#### **Bachelor of Science in** Nursing

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program continues to offer an evolving and dynamic program that allows graduates to work as leaders in the health care system. In 2016, the program was granted a seven-year accreditation from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, the national accrediting body for schools of nursing in Canada, along with the University of Victoria, Selkirk College, and Camosun College, and College mental health, and team-based of the Rockies. BSN faculty have care. Plans are underway to been working closely with the implement a peer support BSN University of Victoria and College program in 2016-17. The need calls to action ensuring the third-year nursing students as BSN program continues to response to the national NCLEX-RN licensing exam, the program has implemented the use of computerized testing in some courses to promote the continued with students and stakeholders examination. The BSN program continues to partner with practice agencies across the north, especially Stanton Territorial Health Authority, to offer diverse nursing education to advance placements in acute, critical and outpatient care. New simulations northern people.



Personal Support Worker Certificate program students gather on the job experience in nursing homes and hospitals.

have been developed and meet anticipated demand for positively reviewed by students in the area of community care, Partners to respond to the Truth for peer mentoring/support and Reconciliation Commission's was assessed by a group of Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, part of their Nursing Practice the final practicum in their support Indigenous students VI Course. The BSN program home communities. Students and facilitate their success. In continues to embrace inter- embraced professional education in its work with the Aurora College advocacy with core principles Social Work and Personal test preparatory products and Support Worker programs. The preference, program is currently working high pass rate on this high-stakes to develop a new strategic plan with the vision of nursing excellence in the Northwest Territories, through its mission of providing leadership in the health and healing of

#### **Personal Support Worker**

The Personal Support Worker (PSW) Certificate program provides opportunities for students to learn personal care and basic assessment skills to provide holistic care to individuals in their communities. Graduates may find work in a variety of health care settings, and work as part of a health care team that includes nurses, physicians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and others.

#### **PSW - Aurora Campus**

Sahtu Region Health & Social partnered Services with Aurora College to offer this program for a second year at Aurora Campus in Inuvik, to qualified workers at the new extended care facility being built in Norman Wells. Among the 12 graduates were students from the North Slave, Sahtu, Beaufort Delta and the Eastern Arctic regions. Students from and Fort McPherson completed the program's strong theme of partnering and of dignity, independence, privacy, and safety. They were able to build independent competencies with reflective practices by integrating theory and practice within settings such as Long Term Care, Acute Care, Charlotte Vehus, Home Care and Public Health. Certifications in CPR/First Aid, WHIMIS, Applied Suicide Intervention

Crisis Intervention, Fire Safety and Social Media Safety were completed. Workshops and Post Graduate Certificate in speakers presented: Traditional Medicine, Cultural integration and Expressive Arts Therapy. graduates Several found employment shortly after finishing the program. Three 2014-15 graduates assumed an active Preceptor role for students in 2015-16.

#### **PSW - Yellowknife North** Slave Campus

Graduates of the program this year were from Yellowknife. Lutselk'e, Hav River, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Behchoko, Fort MacPherson, and Rankin Inlet, included the Extended Care Unit, Medicine, and Surgery units at Stanton Territorial Hospital, Aven Manor and Cottages, Yellowknife home care, the Salvation Army mental health support systems program, Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home in Behchoko, and Rankin Inlet home care. As in previous years, students had opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration with nursina students and participated in a simulation lab. They attended Elders in Motion, Supportive Pathways, and a workshop provided by Avens and Alberta Health Services about supports for individuals with dementia. Students were enthusiastic about information acquired from quest speakers, who provided perspectives on topics ranging from vision loss to parenting children with developmental disabilities. Thirteen students

faculty explored the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action through quest speakers and discussions, and John B. Zoe shared the Tlicho policy making. Students also received training in Non-Violent isolated support Syrian refugees. Aurora most of Regina, Faculty of Social Work. This year, students engaged in a new registration a distance. Instructor Heather findings on Intimate Partner Violence to an international also received the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) Distinguished Service Award for her leadership in Canadian northern social work. Six students graduated and all were either hired into social work jobs or offered Yukon College to complete their across the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), including Behchoko, continue their work to attain a BSW by distance. Social Work Inuvik. students were well represented and at the spring convocation as explore cultural and Traditional valedictorian and the recipient of the UNW Student Leadership through core Award.

Skills Training, Non-Violent participated in the convocation camp held in May. Students and ceremonies in April. Remote Nursing of Grief/Trauma, Pharmacy, The Post Graduate Certificate cosmology with respect to social in Remote Nursing program is offered in collaboration with the Department of Health and Crisis Intervention. Learners Social Services. The program and staff took lead roles on will prepare Registered Nurses the campus Social Justice to function in an expanded Committee. One notable social practice role as community justice fundraising event was health nurses in some of held with the community to Canada's regions. The remote nursing College continues to nurture the certificate is a 15-credit, partnership with the University one-year program, and had its first intake in January 2016. The program is fully subscribed, and the response system that allowed them better from students and prospective access to library and course Nunavut. Practicum experiences students has been positive. It management functions from is offered in combined delivery format, primarily by distance, Fikowski traveled to Seoul, utilizing web-based Moodle South Korea to present research and teleconference classes, and included a three-week onsite component in Yellowknife. social work conference. She The on-site component meets the need for hands-on skill labs, specialty quest speakers, field trips and skill-based examinations. Social Work Applicants to the Social Work jobs with their field agency. Diploma program came from Three students transferred to communities NWT, Gameti, Deline, Tulita, Fort and the remainder plan to Good Hope, Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Resolution, Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Students experiences Knowledge courses and an on-the-land

# School of Trades, Apprenticeship & Industrial Training

#### Apprenticeships

purpose-built Trades The training facilities at the Thebacha allow individuals Campus NWT from throughout the and elsewhere to participate Apprenticeship, Heavy in Equipment Operator (HEO), Mining, Observer Communicator, other trades-related and through the programming School of Trades, Apprenticeship & Industrial Training in Fort Smith. Apprenticeship programs include Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Apprenticeship Carpenter: Levels 1, 2, and 3 of Apprenticeship Electrician (Construction); Levels 1 and 2 Apprenticeship HEO programs include the 15-Plumber/Gasfitter B, Oil Heat 1 and 2 of Apprenticeship Equipment Operator and the Heavy Equipment Technician nine-week Introduction and Housing Maintainer. Aurora College has a long history of delivering trades training in the in two regular offerings of the NWT, and it continues to be an HEO Program, 23 completed. area of tremendous student An extra Heavy Equipment success. For example, in 2015- Operator program was held at 16, 31 of 34 Carpentry programs Thebacha Campus with funding students, 31 of 32 Electrician from the GNWT Department of program participants, 14 of 14 Transportation and the Skilled Plumber/Gasfitter B program Partnership Fund, through the learners, and 14 of 14 Heavy Mine Training Society. Twelve 14 students completed.



Heavy Equipment Operator students train on various pieces of heavy machinery to prepare for employment. Three deliveries took place at Thebacha Campus in 2015-16.

if funding and appropriate equipment are available. The week Heavy Equipment Operator, System Technician; and Levels the eight-week Abridged Heavy to Heavy Equipment Operator. This year, 24 students participated Equipment Technician program students received 185 hours of successfully training on each of two pieces of heavy equipment; 11 graduated.

#### **Heavy Equipment Operator**

#### Mine Training

Due to equipment requirements, the HEO programs are normally based in Fort Smith. However, in College's mining programs. response to local need and labour The process of moving existing market requirements, HEO programs have been delivered to Underground Mining and in other NWT communities Underground Miner – from

2015-16 marked the beginning of a number of changes to Aurora mining programs – Introduction

Yellowknife to Fort Smith was initiated. The equipment training location at a guarry near Yellowknife that has been used for a number of years for the Underground Miner Training program has been dismantled. The equipment was relocated to Fort Smith, where it will be housed with equipment used for Heavy Equipment Operator programs. The simulator which has been used in the mining programs will also be moved to Thebacha Campus. After a two-year hiatus, the Mineral Processing Operator Pre-Employment Training program was offered in Fort Smith with eight students and eight graduates. The six-week Introduction to Underground Mining Program was offered three times, once in each of Fort Smith, Deline, and Fort Good Hope. In Fort Smith, the 11 students who started the program completed it; in Deline four of seven students graduated; and in Fort Good Hope, four of seven students

completed. The 12-week Underground Miner Program was offered once in Yellowknife with 13 students and 12 graduates.

#### **New Mining Programs**

With funding from GNWT Department of Education, Culture and Employment the Mine Training through Society, two new mining programs were developed in 2015: Introduction to the Mining Industry and Surface Program Training. Miner development was guided by the active involvement of a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from the mining industry, including De Beers Canada (Snap Lake), Ekati Dominion Diamond Corporation, Diavik Dominion Mines (2012) Inc., and the NWT Mine Training Society. Introduction to the Mining Industry can be offered in communities as required and as funding is available. Surface Miner Training will be delivered at Thebacha Campus as it requires the use a simulator and specific heavy equipment. With funding from CanNor, the Mine Training Society provided Aurora College with cab simulator modules for a haul truck and a front end loader for the Surface Miner Training program; the two cab modules are interchangeable on the simulator platform. A successful pilot offering of Introduction to the Mining Industry took place at Thebacha Campus with nine of 10 students completing the program.

#### **Corporate Donations**

During the 2015-16 academic and Dehcho ECE Service Centre year, Aurora College was the recipient of equipment donations from the three major mining companies in the NWT. The Mine while in the Intensive portion, Training Society and Aurora College held a celebration to thank DeBeers Canada, Diavik Dominion Mines (2012) Inc., and Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. for the donation of a haul truck, scoop tram, and a Toyota multi-utility vehicle. Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp. also donated a grader for use in mining programs.

#### **Observer Communicator**

In the 2015/16 academic year, the Observer Communicator program was offered four times under the new schedule for the program requested by the funder, NAV Canada. There were a total of 17 graduates.

#### Trades Awareness Program

Aurora College continues to welcome groups of junior and senior high school students and their chaperones to Thebacha Campus for the Introductory and Intensive Trades Awareness Programs (TAP). The College has partnered with South Slave Divisional Education Council and South Slave ECE Service Centre since 2005 to bring their students to the campus to experience college life and be introduced to the trades. 2015-16 marked the first time students from outside of the South Slave region participated, as a new

partnership with the Dehcho Divisional Education Council was created. The Introductory component has students spend one day in each of four trades, students spend four days in one trade of their choice. In 2015-16, the Introductory programs attracted 22 Dehcho and 47 South Slave students, and the Intensive sessions saw 12 Dehcho students and 29 South Slave students returning. Other funding partners for Trades Awareness are Dehcho First Nation, DehCho ASETS, and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

#### **Aurora Campus**

The Mobile Trades & Technology Lab was on the road in the Beaufort-Delta, In Aklavik, the MTTL was used to deliver a Small Engine Repair course, while it served as a classroom and shop for the Building Trades Helper program in Tuktoyaktuk.



NWT's mining sector hires directly from Aurora College programs for various positions.

# Community & Extensions Division



# Access Program Redesign

Based on the findings of the 2014 Access Review, the seven former Access Programs have been streamlined into two: University and College Access Program (UCAP) and Occupations and College Access Program (OCAP), which will be piloted for three years, beginning in 2016-17. The Access Programs Redesign Project was developed using an evidence-based planning process. Between October and December 2015, Community and Extensions division managers, ALBE instructors, and community adult educators who were directly involved in Access and ALBE were invited to provide feedback about the new Access Programs, specialty courses, Access Program logic model, and learner screening package. An Access Programs Communication Plan was created and implemented for internal and external communication about the changes. The plan incorporated a variety of items and activities, including brochures, posters, fact sheets, videos, PowerPoints, news releases, advertising, recruitment events, and staff training/ presentations. As well, in June 2016, Access specialty course outlines – for delivery in 2016-17 - were completed local educators and itinerant and submitted for approval. The Access Program Redesign

Project team was recognized programs. with the 2016 Aurora College and College Improvement Regions Award. Once the three-year pilot has been completed, the In 2015-16, a strengthened redesigned Access Programs team-based





Former Nursing Access student Claire Brooks has transitioned into the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree program at Yellowknife North Slave Campus.

will undergo a stringent take place in 2018-19 using evaluation to ensure they a performance measurement are effective and meeting framework and an evaluation both learner and institutional framework that have been needs. Program evaluation will drafted for this purpose.



academic upgrading, access and campuses and 23 Community NWT. Aurora College works with instructors to provide adult upgrading or other skills-based

# Community Programming

and approach

Each year Aurora College delivers innovative programming were implemented to meet the community programs at three challenges and opportunities of delivering education and training Learning Centres throughout the programs in the region. This involved ongoing assessments of staff skills and successful program deliveries to enable the region's adult educators to share best practices within the team and with colleagues Board of Governors' Innovation Akaitcho and South Slave across the territory. One highly successful program approach to emerge from this collaboration was the practice of augmenting Literacy and Essential Skills

(LES) courses to tailor them to local employment needs. For example, in Lutselk'e, Hay River, and Fort Resolution, adult educators secured extra funding to include certified safety training within deliveries of the LES program Construction Labourer Basics. This blended approach of training alongside education has improved the employability of graduates, as well as developed their literacy and essential skills. The approach better prepares graduates for potential employment with the construction projects are scheduled in each community during the summer and fall.

A reduction in major economic drivers pushing development in the region has shifted the regional focus from running large scale training programs to strengthening the delivery of Adult Literacy and Basic Education programs, improving community needs assessments, delivering more safety training locally, and adding more career exploration and job seeking skills into existing programs. An example of the latter took place at K'atl'odeeche First Nation, where the adult educator delivered a month of goal setting and career exploration courses that continue to determine programming choices for that community. Greater involvement and planning with communities will continue in 2016-17.

#### **Beaufort-Delta Region**

Increased co-operation with schools in the region is a continuing trend. The Alex and Hope Gordon Learning Centre in Aklavik has developed a model where adults learners, along with existing high school students, are able to take courses they Committee



Literacy and Essential Skills courses, such as this Construction Labourer Basics class in Behchoko, help bring essential skills to NWT communities.

need to qualify for high school of Aurora College, GNWT graduation or to be accepted departments, into post-secondary programs, community including those available employers, and funders such through Aurora College. In as ASETS and ECE - has 2015-16, three Aklavik adult initiated work on a threelearners completed their high year training plan, making school requirements through community consultations and the Learning Centre, and more stakeholder are expected to complete in the focus in 2015-16. Two the near future. Community workshops - Planning and interest in basic and vocational Funding Your Post-Secondary training remains high. The Education and Writing for following courses were offered: Post-Secondary Education -Construction Labourer Basics were developed and delivered in Aklavik and Fort McPherson; in the small communities in Small Engine Repair in Aklavik; response to community needs. Traditional Arts Certificate Communities and learners in Aklavik; Country Foods have shown interest in the Processing - a partnership with new University and College Inuvialuit Regional Corporation Access and the Occupations government departments in Inuvik. Participation and In addition to ALBE, Literacy completion rates for these and Essential Skills courses deliveries were high. Short and numerous employmentcourses such as driver training, first aid, WHMIS, Transportation courses were delivered at of Dangerous Goods by Ground the learning centres in Fort (TDG), and non-restricted firearms safety were well subscribed.

#### **Dehcho Region**

The Dehcho Regional Training Literacy, Food Safety, Safety -

regional representatives, collaboration and College Access programs. related continuing education Providence, Fort Simpson, and Fort Liard. Courses offered include Introduction to Retail and Customer Service, Ready to Work NWT/Construction Labourer Basics, Financial comprised Boot Camp, Chainsaw Level 3,



Delivering programs in NWT communities allows Aurora College to reach individuals who are looking to prepare for further academic programs or learn skills to help enter or return to the workforce.

and Class 7 & 5 Driver Training. approach to teaching adopted Open evenina night per week in Fort Simpson region's increased capacity and office administration computer skills. smaller Dehcho communities, including Introduction to Computers, Microsoft 2013, and Proposal Writing. Youth-Community Access Program, Never Board Game Club, and Red Cross Babysitting -Water Safety - have helped Simpson Community Learning Centre.

#### Sahtu Region

One measure of success in 2015-16 is that students from Sahtu are continuing into an Access or certificate program with Aurora College. The team to

education by the adult educators has Tlicho and Yellowknife programs were offered one played a significant role in the Regions and Fort Providence to provide quality of education available. In addition to ALBE, Tlicho and the opportunity for employed This year, core courses were Yellowknife Regions continued individuals to enhance their taught by teleconference, to pilot new programs and and including math 130, English courses in 2015-16. Whati Several 130, English 140, trades Community Learning Centre courses were delivered in the math preparation, and trades participated in pilot delivery science preparation. With the of distance learning Trades integration of online tools, the Math, which was initiated number of students enrolled and developed in the Sahtu and completing has increased. Region. Existing and new focused programs such as the Learning centres also offer Literacy and Essential Skills 110/120 level courses, Literacy (LES) courses were offered: and Essential Skills courses and Start Your Own Small Business non-credit programming. The and Introduction to Retail and which includes First Aid and winter road season continues Customer Service in Gameti; to be a challenge and continues Ready to Work NWT in Gameti, to transition youth to the Fort to affect success rates in the Behchoko and Whati; and second term. However, this has Construction Labourer Basics led the Sahtu learning centres in Whati and Behchoko. The to strategically plan the 2016- LES courses are popular with 2017 academic year to improve both students and instructors, winter outcomes. In addition and communities are eager to ALBE, learning centres in to see more offered. A wide the Sahtu partnered with local range of life skills and wellevery learning centre in the funders to offer additional being workshops and courses programs. Deline and Fort were delivered in all four Tlicho Good Hope ran Introduction communities, in response Mining; to identified Underground community

students completed. ten Literacy and Essential Skills (LES) courses were once again offered, this year in conjunction with ITI, including tourism-focused Introduction to Retail and Customer Service in Deline, carpentry-focused **Construction Labourer Basics in** Norman Wells, and Introduction to Early Learning and Childcare and Start Your Own Small Business in Fort Good Hope and Deline. All LES courses had high completion rates. The Sahtu region continues to expand ways to meet communities' adult education needs and is exponentially increasing learners' completion and success rates.

Financial Literacy, Personal Parenting, ASIST -Applied Suicide Intervention successfully. The Integration Skills and Training, Traditional Advisor and Program Head Medicines, True Colours, Job attended inter-agency meetings Skills, Resume Writing, Class 7 Driver Training, and Traditional Foods Preservation. Aurora College participated in a series of community economic and skills development consultation meetings, facilitated by Government Tlicho and Dillon Consulting, as well as inter-agency meetings with A new approach to Continuing stakeholders, partners, and community members. These collaborations sought to identify and plan for future Existing regional staff and training needs in anticipation of adult the planned construction of an and delivered courses and all-weather road to Whati.

Yellowknife Literacy Outreach and in the communities. This Centre (LOC) provides services model allows a fuller slate of to individuals from a diverse courses - with an emphasis range of Demand and ethnicities. has steadily increased for programs, which are delivered to more communities in a costin Literacy Council, Computers of short, employment-related for Schools, Aven Manor, Baker courses offered are Driver Centre, YWCA, Association for Community Restricted Firearm Safety. Living, and Healthy Family Several Centre. Interest was strongest are taking steps to become in computer skills and tutoring facilitators of some of these services. offered included Family Literacy efficiencies. and Book Club. Funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) for Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) and the Integration Service Development was extended for one year, (ICEDO); Education, Culture to March 31, 2017. A notable and Employment; and Industry, change to the clientele was an Tourism, and Investment. The Resolution, Fort Smith, and increased number of Syrian pilot course ran in Inuvik, using Hay River, as well as a five-day refugees requiring support. a state-of-the-art mobile facility Introduction to Environmental The Integration Advisor also built and designed specifically Monitoring course in Fort

requirements. These included facilitated workshops to assist support to groups sponsoring Mental clients in preparing for the individual refugee families. The Health First Aid Northern Canadian Citizenship written service, in partnership with Peoples, Standard First Aid, test and Citizenship ceremony, LOC, also organized a successful they completed which providing information and nationalities.

multicultural potluck event for clients and their families, which was attended by approximately 85 people representing several

## Continuing Education

#### Aurora Campus

Education deliverv was introduced in the Beaufort Delta region in 2015-16. educators planned workshops at Aurora Campus demographics on employment-related skills **Thebacha Campus** development and personal development – to be delivered partnership with NWT effective manner. Examples Yellowknife Training, First Aid, and Nonadult educators Other programs courses to further increase

the Country Foods Board was Processing Course, delivered in Building an On-line Presence, partnership with the Inuvialuit Small Business Basics, and Tax Community Organization

for the Arctic and owned by ICEDO. Participants learned to professionally cut, dry, smoke, and grind local meats and fish, enhancing local self-sufficiency and creating potential for commercial opportunities. Additional offerings of this popular course within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region are planned for the 2016-17 academic year.

A variety of partners were involved in planning and delivering 2015-16 courses and workshops through Thebacha Campus Continuing Education. Aurora College partnered with the Department of Industry, Tourism, and Investment to deliver a series of courses aimed at entrepreneurs and small businesses in Fort Providence, Fort Resolution, Fort Smith Another new development and Hay River, which included Member Training, Economic Preparation. Thebacha Campus worked with Northwest Territory Metis Nation to offer a series of safety classes in Fort

Resolution and Fort Smith. Other programming included Standard First Aid, GNWT Food Safety, and professional development courses such Project Management as Fundamentals, and High Impact Business Writing. In all, nearly 300 people completed continuing education classes offered through the Thebacha Campus office in 2015-16.

Yellowknife North Slave Campus

## School of Developmental Studies

Professional

Workplace

Public



Student in the School of Development Studies participate in on-the-land camps to learn about Traditional Knowledge and cultures.

The School of Developmental Studies offers Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) and Access programming at the three campuses. ALBE includes six levels, ranging from basic literacy to coursework at the Grade 12 level. Access programs provide college preparation and academic prerequisites to allow students to enter and be successful in the various postsecondary programs offered at Learning Centre offered a Aurora College. In 2015-16, six full slate of Developmental Access Programs were available Studies programs, Business Administration, ALBE and Access \_ Environment & Natural Resources – Nursing, Social Work, and Technology, Nursing, Social Work, Teacher

students successfully completed the diploma examinations in English, Biology, and Math. One student attained 97 percent on the English 30-2 diploma exam. In December, the Inuvik CLC offered its first half-day of cultural activities, which attracted 21 students. Elder Brian Rogers and Traditional Arts Instructor Gail Ann Raddi led the workshop, where students learned to create either a sealskin broach or headband. A second cultural activities day was held in June and included Teacher Education, and Trades – a beading workshop, traditional although not all were run at each Inuit games, and a lunch for campus. Several promotional the students and their families. videos were produced, featuring Instructors at the Inuvik CLC successful Access and ALBE worked to upgrade their own students who have gone on to educations, with several enrolled certificate, diploma, and degree programs at Aurora College. in university courses in an effort to continue to bring excellence to their instruction and passion to their profession.

#### Aurora Campus

In 2015-16, the Inuvik includina programs Education. Several

development the courses, such as Verbal Judo, Development Speaking,

Continuing Education students Others, Minute Taking, Tlicho participating in workshops at Agreement, etc. brought in an Yellowknife North Slave Campus additional 284 individuals. The in 2015-16 totaled 1,036. Two Diploma in Supply Management offerings of the Leadership saw 133 people take part Certificate through Vancouver in different workshops and Community College drew 359 classes. Twelve completed the learners, while two series of the entire program. The Continuing Project Management program Education office in Yellowknife attracted 260 participants. is also involved in coordinating Northern Leadership Program, Supervisory Skills, Effective Certificate in Adult Education, Communication, Math 30-1, English 30-1, and Training Medical Terminology classes.

#### Thebacha Campus **Developmental Studies** Program 2015-2016

Thebacha Campus offered a variety of courses including ALBE and five Access programs experience with local Elders, Business Administration, Environment & Natural Resources Technology, Nursing, Teacher Education, and Trades. Students in Trades Access spent time with Journeymen instructors in Carpentry and Plumbing in addition to their academics. In all, 42 students completed Access programs. A total of 43 Developmental Studies students registered for the June diploma exams and 68 learners in ALBE received records of completion. Two cultural activities days for instructors students and were held on the land. Local Elders led workshops and demonstrations of traditional knowledge and skills, such as identifying medicinal plants, skinning muskrats, preparing traditional foods such as moose, duck, and bannock, setting up tents, snowshoeing, making fires, and Dene games. In addition, four instructors are working towards achieving their Master's degrees.

#### Yellowknife North Slave Campus

Yellowknife North Slave Campus offered courses in ALBE and four Access Programs – Business Administration, Nursing, Social Work, and Teacher Education. Courses in English 30-2, English 30-1, Biology 30, and Math 30-1 were delivered in the evening as part of the University College Education Prep (UCEP) Program through Continuing Education. Two achieved their NWT Secondary School Diplomas (they are Ministers of Education Canada two of the featured students in the promotional videos). Early in the year, students Skills (LES) courses as national and staff participated in a day-long on-the-land learning

who demonstrated traditional skills and knowledge, such as teepee building, making dryfish, and storytelling. A "Northern Games Day", held in the spring, allowed students and staff to participate in a variety of Inuit and Dene games. Several

instructors enrolled in courses to upgrade their knowledge and skills, including working on a Master's degree at Athabasca University, taking classes towards the Certificate in Adult Education with Aurora College, and attending a Dene Language conference in Yellowknife.

## Northern Adult Basic Education (NABE)

The NABE Program is a multi- were nominated for an NWT milliondollar, multi-yearprogram Ministerial Literacy Award created by the Government of for the LES courses delivery Canada, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency College as having a best practice (CanNor), to address the unique in terms of data collection, challenges faced by Northerners analysis, and reporting; and in participating in the labour the NABE manager received market. This program includes the 2016 Aurora College Board educational activities that assist of Governors' Service Quality adult learners in achieving sufficient levels of literacy and essential skills (LES) to obtain a job or benefit from further The Program is training. being delivered by the three and Customer Service) were northern Colleges, Aurora College, Nunavut Arctic College and Yukon College from April 1, 2012, to March 31, 2016.

The overall impact of the NWT NABE program has been significant, with various projects within the program awarded or nominated for territorial and national awards, or nominated as best practices. For example: the NABE partnership between Aurora College and NWT Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS), received students the NWT Premier's Award for Collaboration; the Council of (CMEC) recognized NWT NABE and the Literacy and Essential promisina practices; Community Learning Centres for ALBE programming.

process; CanNor cited Aurora Award.

Three LES new courses (Ready to Work NWT, Construction Labourer Basics, and Introduction to Retail piloted and evaluated in 16 communities. During the academic year, 275 adult learners participated in the new courses, and completion rates ranged from 71-81%, compared to average completion rates of 49% in ALBE courses. A survey of former ALBE and Access learners- the first of its kind was conducted. Results showed 56% of former students from 2013-14 and 2014-15 acquired jobs after completing ALBE or Access programs. Work is underway on the Summative Evaluation of NWT NABE program, which will compile data on lessons learned, successes, and challenges of the NABE program. The evaluation will be used as a the blueprint for enhancements to



## **Aurora Research Institute**

As the research division of Aurora College, the Aurora Research Institute (ARI) facilitates and research in the NWT and acts as a hub of northern knowledge. ARI advances the territory's research capacity through discovery, outreach and education at its three regional centres - the Western Arctic Research Centre in Inuvik, the South Slave Research Centre in Fort Smith, and the North Slave Research Centre in Yellowknife. Territory-wide research administration is provided by ARI headquarters, which is located in the Western Arctic Research Centre (WARC).

#### Strategic Planning

Since becoming a part of Aurora College in 1994, ARI has operated without a strategic plan to quide its activities. This has allowed the institute to take advantage of opportunities based on fit and capacity, however, it has also meant that ARI has operated without a structured decision-making process for selecting, designing and monitoring its initiatives. In the summer of 2015, ARI contracted Tait Communications and Consulting to assist in the development of a strategic plan that will guide the institute over the next decade. The plan was developed in consultation with ARI's stakeholders and the Aurora College Research Advisory Council, and will be widely distributed during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Support for College become eligible to hold funds **Research and Tri-Council** from two granting councils that Eligibility are major sources of research funding in Canada: the Social ARI has recently supported Science and Humanities conducts the college in the development Research Council (SSHRC) of two committees that and the Natural Science and provide oversight for research Engineering Research Council activities. The Research (NSERC). This 'institutional Ethics Committee reviews eligibility' is a significant research on human subjects accomplishment for Aurora to ensure ethical standards College, as it allows faculty and



are met, and the Animal Care staff to access these funds and Committee reviews the use increases the College's ability to of animals in instructional retain northern-based research programs to ensure they are capacity. It also represents a treated humanely. While significant national recognition both committees primarily of the developing research serve Aurora College staff and capacity in the college and students, they also provide NWT. In the first half of 2016, services for external NWT college staff were successful research groups that don't have in securing their first funding access to their own institutional including NSERC grants, committees. In 2014, these Connect and Engage Grants rigorous standards of research and a SSHRC Community and ethics and administration College Social Innovation Fund allowed Aurora College to award.

# Aurora Research Institute

ARI published the 30th annual Compendium of Research in the Northwest Territories in 2016. which details research in 2014.

## Publication

The Compendium of Research social sciences (28%), and in the NWT is an annual health (11%). All remaining publication of summary reports fields (contaminants, biology, for all research licences and traditional knowledge, and permits that were issued in engineering) the NWT. The compendia are a accounted for the remaining collaboration between the four 22% of licensed NWT research NWT permitting bodies; ARI, projects. the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the GNWT **Conducting Research** Department of Environment and and Oceans Canada. The involved in research projects compendium was first published across the NWT. In 2015in 1984, so the 2014 edition 2016, staff studied the use of year that this resource was efforts, diabetes prevention available on the ARI website, as violence, greenhouse feasibility library.

#### Licensing

year (Fig. 1), which is one of the and the aurora borealis). ARI students, youth, and community

**30 Years of Compendium** physical sciences accounted funds and research grants from for 40% of the issued licences many territorial and federal (Fig. 2), followed by the collectively ARI

Natural Resources, and Fisheries Many ARI staff are actively marked the thirtieth consecutive indigenous seeds in revegetation Science Outreach published. All editions are strategies, intimate partner In the 2015-2016 academic year, well as in hard copy in the ARI in northern communities, and of outreach activities at all three climate change. On-going locations. The ConocoPhillips monitoring programs included Scientific Speaker Series provided air quality, alternative energy funds for northern researchers potential (wind and solar), to travel to NWT communities ARI issued 202 NWT research permafrost, and space science and present their work to a licences in the 2015 calendar (monitoring of neutron fluxes range audiences that included

highest years on record. The staff have actively pursued sources in order to conduct new research projects.

#### **Research Logistics**

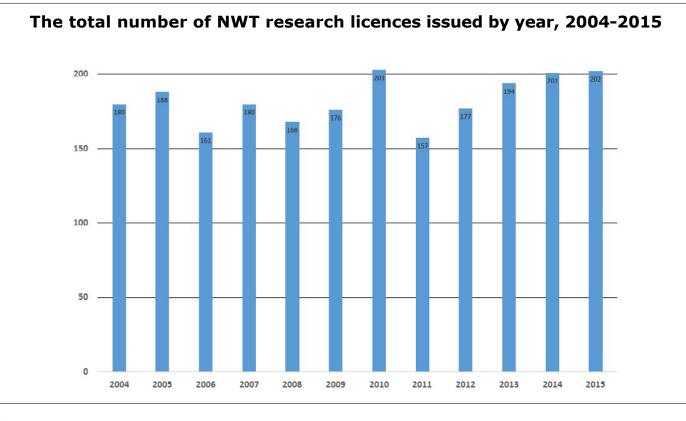
facilities supported researchers across the NWT. At WARC, the busiest facility, about 240 individual researchers used ARI's logistical services in 2015, including approximately 100 early-career researchers (college students, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows).

ARI staff facilitated a wide range

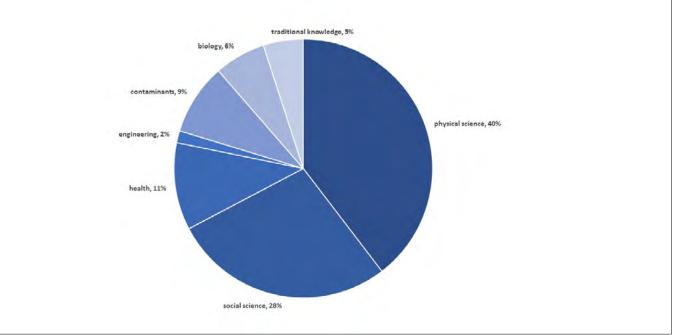
members. Topics over the past year included caribou population dynamics, the experiences of NWT cancer patients, and placebased learning using stories and maps. Other activities that were supported by the regional research centres included science fairs, research presentations, trade shows, public tours, and a youth robotics club. ARI staff also coordinated a Science Rendezvous event in partnership with the East Three Public Schools in Inuvik. Sixteen local organizations staged a total of 40 hands-on science demonstrations for the public; more than 300 school-aged children and their families took part in the event.

#### **College Instruction**

ARI staff continue to support instruction at Aurora College. ARI staff teach in the nursing, education, and Environment and Natural Resources Technology programs, and provide support for the college's on-the-land educational programming.









Aurora Research Institute participates in a University of Regina high altitude Balloon experiment with help of the community.

### Breakdown of 2015 NWT research licences by discipline.

# Student Support Services

# Aurora College is proud of the variety and quality of supports provided to students at our three campuses.



## **Admissions and Registration**

The admissions/registration office at each campus is responsible for student admissions, registrations and course changes and maintaining student records. This office also issues marks, transcripts, certificates, diplomas, and all other documents of recognition.

## Accommodation

Aurora College has single and family housing at all three campuses. The number and types of units are outlined in the table to the right

## **Student Success Centres**

As part of an overall student success initiative, each of the Aurora College campuses has a Student Success Centre. These centres are equipped to assist students in achieving personal and academic success at the College. The Student Success Centres provide academic assistance to students in the form of tutoring, workshops and career counselling.

## Counselling

Aurora College has trained counsellors at all three campuses to assist students with personal and other matters. In addition to one-on-one services, the counsellor offers workshops and presentations, assistance in finding on-line and community resources, and self-help materials.

## **Computer Labs**

Aurora College students have access to modern, wellequipped computer labs at all three campuses. Most of the 23 Community Learning Centres also have computer labs and/or workstations. In addition, Aurora College students are assigned a "myauroracollege" email account. This email service enables students and instructors to connect, and also provides an email address to students for their personal use.

## **Library Services**

Aurora College maintains libraries at each of the three campuses and at the Aurora Research Institute. Libraries support students and staff with a full range of library services. Library collections across the three campuses include more than 25,000 books, periodicals, subscriptions, videos, Canadian and government documents, pamphlets, and CD-ROM and web-based resources. Internet access and interlibrary loan services are available at all campus locations.

Campus Location	Type of Units	Total Number of Units
Aurora Campus	Single	30 Units
	Family	24 Units
Thebacha Campus	Single	62 Units
	Family	66 Units
Yellowknife North	Single	16 Units
Slave Campus	Family	48 Units









## 2015 - 2016 Enrolment

Enrolments for the 2015-16 Academic Year are shown students and dividing by 10. Apprenticeship programs on the opposite page. Previous year enrolments are were an exception; the ratio used was 4 courses shown for comparative purposes.

Student enrolments are converted to Full Time in some inaccuracies in calculations. Research was Equivalents (FTEs). Full-time equivalents are a way of conducted into how other institutions calculate FTEs, standardizing student counts to compare enrolment and modifications have been made. from year to year, program to program, and institution to institution. Typically, 1 FTE represents 1 student The revised method of calculating FTEs is based on enrolled in a full course load in a program for 1 academic year. Full-time and part-time students are converted to FTEs based on the proportion of a full program load they are studying. Full-time students must be enrolled to FTEs will be based on the full program load for a in at least 60% of a full program load, in a program that student's program. For example, 1 FTE may be given for a lasts 12 weeks or more. Part-time students are students full program of 450 hours over two semesters. A student who do not meet that minimum threshold.

to FTEs by totaling all courses taken by part-time

per 1 FTE. However, recent changes in the number of courses offered in several programs has resulted

course hours rather than the number of courses. This eliminates over- or under-reporting due to differing lengths and number of courses. The ratio of enrolment who enrolls in 360 hours of classes in that program will equal 0.8 FTE (360 divided by 450). Apprenticeship Up until 2014-15, part-time students were converted students will equal 0.5 FTE per 240 hours of courses.



# **Enrolment Information**

# Student Enrolment by Campus - Full Time Equivalency

Campus	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	% Change	% Change	% Change
				15-16	14-15	13-14
Aurora	199.6	235.9	224.0	-15%	5%	-4%
Thebacha	358.2	360.0	398.3	-1%	-10%	10%
Yellowknife North Slave	308.6	300.9	325.9	3%	-8%	-4%
Total College	866.4	896.8	948.2	-3%	-5%	2%

## Full Time Equivalent Students by Location by Program Division

School/Division	15-16	14-15	13-14	% Change 15-16	% Change 14-15	% Change 13-14
Continuing Education	105.2	114.1	76.3	-8%	50%	20%
Developmental Studies	371	412.1	410.5	-10%	0%	9%
Arts & Science	33.1	41.4	47.9	-20%	-14%	16%
Business & Leadership	47.3	57.7	95.4	-18%	-40%	-10%
Education	64.2	59.2	49.2	8%	20%	-20%
Health & Human Services	152.2	140.5	130.6	8%	8%	-24%
Trades, Apprenticeship & Industrial Training	93.4	71.8	138.3	30%	-48%	24%
Total	866.4	896.8	948.2	-3%	-5%	2%

## Student Enrolment by Campus (student count)

	1	1		1	1	1				-	1	
Campus	15-16	15-16	14-15	14-15	13-14	13-14	%	%	%	%	%	%
	FTE	PTE	FTE	PTE	FTE	PTE	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change
							15-16	15-16	14-15	14-15	15-16	14-15
							FT	PT	FT	PT	Total	Total
Aurora	89	693	124	912	131	528	-28%	-24%	-5%	73%	-25%	57%
Thebacha	190	988	190	948	257	812	0%	4%	-26%	17%	4%	6%
Yellowknife	174	781	185	731	221	710	-6%	7%	-16%	3%	4%	-2%
Total College	453	2462	499	2591	609	2050	-9%	-5%	-18%	26%	-6%	16%

(Source: Registrar - Student Records System)

# AURORA COLLEGE SPRING CONVOCATION 2016

School of Arts & Science Environment & Natural Resources Technology Diploma – 6 Traditional Arts Certificate - 3

BA CG

### School of Business & Leadership

Business Administration Certificate – 19 Business Administration Diploma – 9 Office Administration Certificate – 4

### School of Education

Aboriginal Language & Cultural Instructor Certificate - 2 Certificate in Adult Education - 2 Early Childhood Development Certificate - 11 Bachelor of Education - 6

#### School of Health & Human Services

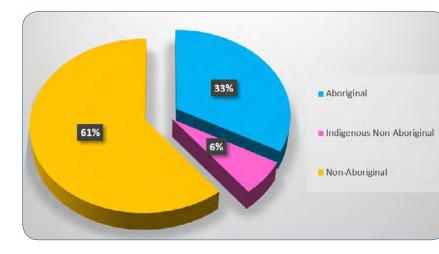
Community Health Representative Certificate – 2 Personal Support Worker Certificate – 26 Social Work Diploma – 4 Bachelor of Science in Nursing – 11

36



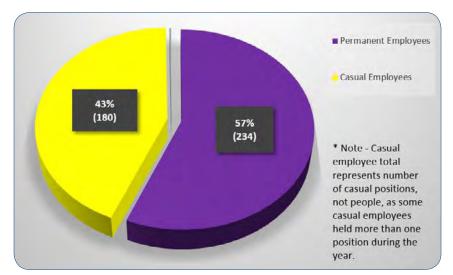


# Supplementary Information



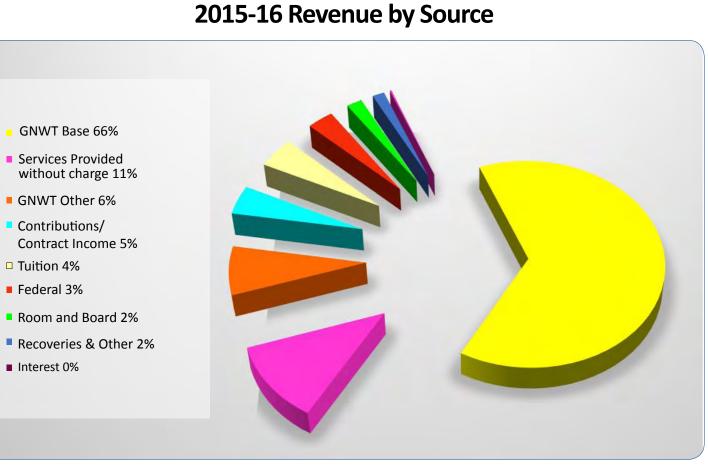
## 2015-16 Employees by Priority Status at February 28, 2016

Aboriginal: 33% Indigenous Non-Aboriginal: 6% Non-Aboriginal: 61%



## 2015-16 Employees by **Employment Type** at February 28, 2016

Permanent Employees: 234 Casual employees: 180





Office of the Auditor General of Canada

Bureau du vérificateur général du Canada

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

#### **Report on the Financial Statements**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Aurora College, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, and the statement of operations and accumulated surplus, statement of change in net financial assets and statement of cash flow for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

#### **AURORA COLLEGE**

**Audited Financial Statements** June 30, 2016

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Aurora College as at 30 June 2016, and the results of its operations, changes in its net financial assets, and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

#### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

As required by the Aurora College Act of the Northwest Territories, I report that, in my opinion, the accounting principles in Canadian public sector accounting standards have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Further, in my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by Aurora College and the financial statements are in agreement therewith. In addition, the transactions of Aurora College that have come to my notice during my audit of the financial statements have, in all significant respects, been in accordance with the Financial Administration Act of the Northwest Territories and regulations, the Aurora College Act and regulations and the by-laws of Aurora College.

David drung

David Irving, CPA, CA Principal for the Auditor General of Canada

24 November 2016 Edmonton, Canada

### MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The financial statements of the Aurora College (the "College") and all information in this annual report are the responsibility of the College's management and have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Governors. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and include some amounts that are necessarily based on management's best estimates and judgment. Financial information presented elsewhere in the annual report is consistent with that contained in the financial statements.

In discharging its responsibility for financial reporting, management maintains and relies on financial and management control systems and practices which are designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized and recorded, proper records are maintained, assets are safeguarded, and the College complies with applicable laws. These controls and practices ensure the orderly conduct of business, the timely preparation of reliable financial information and adherence to the College's statutory requirements and policies.

The Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control and exercises this responsibility through the Finance Committee of the Board, which is composed of a majority of members who are not employees of the College. The Finance Committee meets regularly with management and the external auditors. The external auditors also have full and free access to the Finance Committee.

The College's external auditor, the Auditor General of Canada, audits the financial statements and issues his report thereon to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Jonconz

Jane Arychuk President

Fort Smith, Canada November 24, 2016

## AURORA COLLEGE

Kathy Lepine Standing Acting Director of Finance/Chief Financial Officer

#### AURORA COLLEGE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at June 30, 2016 (in thousands of dollars)

Financial assets	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash Accounts receivable (Note 3)	\$ 9,060 <u>1,673</u>	\$ 8,848 <u>2,220</u>
	10,733	11,068
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	898	1,366
Payroll liabilities	1,262	1,398
Deferred revenue	339	244
Due to the Government of the		
Northwest Territories	730	1,816
Employee future benefits (Note 4)	2,170	2,270
Professional development fund (Note 5)	2,031	1,946
	7,430	9,040
Net financial assets	<u>3,303</u>	2,028
Non-financial assets		
Prepaid expenses	571	655
Tangible capital assets (Note 6)	4,802	5,114
	5,373	5,769
Accumulated surplus (Note 7)	<u>\$ 8,676</u>	<u>\$ 7,797</u>

Contingent liabilities and commitments (Notes 11 and 12)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Approved by the Board:

Knely Tate

Kathy Tsetso Chairperson of the Board

Mary Beckett Chairperson of the Finance Committee

	<u>Ac</u>
\$ 33,404	\$ 32
5,730	6,
3,274	3
2,558	2
1,663	2
1,836	1
1,269	1
798	
104	
50,636	50
1,966	2
5,169	5
10,512	10
18,970	20
10,450	11
2,691	2
49,758	51
878	(1
<u> </u>	8
<u>\$ 8,675</u>	<u>\$ 7</u>
	<u>\$8,675</u> cial statements.

#### AURORA COLLEGE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS for the year ended June 30, 2016 (in thousands of dollars)

### AURORA COLLEGE STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS for the year ended June 30, 2016

(in thousands of dollars)

	<u>20</u> Budget	<u>)16</u> Actual	<u>2015</u> <u>Actual</u>
Annual surplus / (deficit)	<u>\$ (1,140)</u>	<u>\$ 878</u>	<u>\$ (1,115)</u>
Acquisition of tangible capital assets Write-off of tangible capital assets Disposal of tangible capital assets Amortization of tangible capital assets	- - - <u>451</u> 451	(693) - 76 <u>929</u> 312	(738) 101 - <u>1,052</u> 415
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses		85	(230)
Increase / (decrease) in net financial assets	(689)	1,275	(930)
Net financial assets at beginning of year	2,028	2,028	<u>2,958</u>
Net financial assets at end of year	<u>\$ 1,339</u>	<u>\$ 3,303</u>	<u>\$ 2,028</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Operating transactions	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash received from: Government of the Northwest Territories Students and other third parties Government of Canada Interest	\$ 36,837 6,944 1,663 104	\$ 36,707 8,627 2,473 113
Cash paid for: Cash paid for compensation and benefits Cash paid to suppliers	(31,027) <u>(13,692)</u>	(31,376) <u>(15,160)</u>
Cash provided by operating transactions	829	1,384
Capital transactions Acquisition of tangible capital assets Proceeds on tangible capital assets	(693) <u>76</u>	(738)
Cash used for capital transactions	(617)	(738)
Increase in cash	212	646
Cash at beginning of year	8,848	8,202
Cash at end of year	<u>\$ 9,060</u>	<u>\$ 8,848</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

#### AURORA COLLEGE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW for the year ended June 30, 2016 (in thousands of dollars)

#### **1. AUTHORITY AND MANDATE**

#### a) Authority and purpose

Aurora College ("College") was established under the Aurora College Act and is named as a territorial corporation under the Financial Administration Act of the Northwest Territories. The College is exempt from income taxes.

The College is a multi-campus institution designed to provide a wide variety of educational services to adult learners of the Northwest Territories (NWT). The programs are directed specifically to the northern environment and the needs of individual northerners, the workforce and northern communities. To accomplish this, courses and services are delivered at campuses and communities throughout the NWT. Through the work of the Aurora Research Institute, the College is also responsible to conduct and facilitate research activities in the NWT.

#### b) Contributions from the Government of the Northwest Territories

The College receives monthly contributions from the Government of the Northwest Territories ("Government") based on appropriations consistent with the Government's Main Estimates and adjusted for supplementary appropriations. The contributions are to be utilized for the administration and delivery of the College's adult and post-secondary education programs in the NWT. The College is allowed to retain all surpluses and is responsible for all deficits.

The College is economically dependent upon the contributions received from the Government for its ongoing operations.

#### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards ("PSAS"). The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies.

#### a) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with PSAS requires the College to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses reported in the financial statements. By their nature, these estimates are subject to measurement uncertainty. The effect on the financial statements of changes to such estimates and assumptions in future periods could be significant, although, at the time of preparation of these statements, the College believes the estimates and

#### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### a) Measurement uncertainty (continued)

assumptions to be reasonable. Some of the more significant management estimates relate to the allowance for doubtful accounts, employee future benefits, amortization, and revenue accruals.

#### b) Cash

Cash is comprised of bank account balances, net of outstanding cheques.

#### c) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets transferred to the College when it was established were recorded at their estimated fair market value. Subsequent acquisitions are recorded at cost. Tangible capital assets are amortized over their estimated remaining useful lives on a straight-line basis at the following annual rates:

Mobile equipment Building additions and renovations Furniture and equipment Leasehold improvements

#### d) Employee future benefits

#### i) Pension benefits

All eligible employees participate in the Public Service Pension Plan (the "Plan") administered by the Government of Canada. The College's contributions reflect the full cost as employer. This amount is currently based on a multiple of an employee's required contributions and may change over time depending on the experience of the Plan. The College's contributions are expensed during the year in which the services are rendered and represent the total pension obligation of the College. The College is not currently required to make contributions with respect to any actuarial deficiencies of the Plan.

#### ii)Severance, removal and compensated absences

Under the terms and conditions of employment, employees may earn non-pension benefits for resignation, retirement and removal costs. Eligible employees earn benefits based on years of service to a maximum entitlement based on terms of employment. Eligibility is based on variety of factors including place of hire, date employment

#### Aurora College Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2016

#### 3 to 20 years 20 years 2 to 10 years over the remaining term of the lease

#### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### d) Employee future benefits (continued)

#### Severance, removal and compensated absences (continued) ii)

commenced, reason for termination. Benefit entitlements are paid upon resignation, retirement or death of an employee. Termination benefits are also recorded when employees are identified for lay-off. Compensated absences include sick, special, parental and maternity leave. Accumulating non-vesting sick and special leave are recognized in the period the employee provides service, whereas parental and maternity leave are event driven and are recognized when the leave commences. An actuarial valuation of the cost of these benefits has been prepared using data provided by management and assumptions based on management's best estimates.

#### e) Government contributions

Government contributions are recognized as revenue when the funding is authorized and all eligibility criteria are met, except to the extent that funding stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability.

The College receives its appropriations on a monthly basis from the Government of the Northwest Territories, as the College has a different fiscal year. These contributions are recognized as revenue in the period in which the funding relates once all eligibility criteria have been met and it has been authorized.

#### f) Government contributions – services received without charge

The Government provides certain services without charge to the College. The estimated value of these services are recognized as expenses with an offsetting credit to revenues in order to reflect the full cost of the College's operations in its financial statements.

#### g) Own source revenues

Tuition fees, room and board, interest income, and other income are recognized on an accrual basis as they are earned.

#### h) Other contributions and deferred revenue

The College provides education and research services to private companies, federal and territorial government departments, agencies, and corporations through contractual

## 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### h) Other contributions and deferred revenue (continued)

arrangements. Payments received under these contracts for which the development and delivery of courses and projects are not completed are recorded as deferred revenue until completion in accordance with the stipulations of these agreements.

Revenue from federal and territorial government departments, agencies and corporations is recorded once the eligibility criteria are met; the payments are authorized, except to the extent that funding stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definitions of a liability.

#### i) Contract services

Contract services acquired by the College include printing services, food service contracts, instruction contracts, leases and rental agreements. These amounts are recognized as expenses in the year the services are rendered.

#### i) Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is a potential liability which may become an actual liability when one or more future events occur or fail to occur. To the extent that the future event is likely to occur or fail to occur, and a reasonable estimate of the loss can be made, an estimated liability is accrued and an expense recorded. If the likelihood is not determinable or an amount cannot be reasonably estimated, the contingency is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

#### k) Prepaid expenses

Prepaid expenses are charged to expense over the periods expected to benefit from it.

#### I) Funds and reserves

Certain amounts, as approved by the Board of Governors, are set aside as reserves in accumulated surplus for future operating and capital purposes. Transfers to and from funds and reserves are recorded when approved.

#### m) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are identified by financial asset and financial liability classifications.

The College's financial assets include cash and accounts receivable which are both

#### Aurora College Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2016

#### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

#### m) Financial instruments (continued)

measured at cost. Financial liabilities include accounts payable & accrued liabilities, due to Government of the Northwest Territories and professional development fund which are all measured at cost.

All financial assets are tested annually for impairment. When financial assets are impaired, impairment losses are recorded in the Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus. The allowance for doubtful accounts is based on management's best estimate of probable losses. The allowance is calculated based on a percentage of specific aged receivables where management believes an impairment has occurred. The allowance is shown as a reduction to accounts receivable. Management recommends write-offs of student accounts that are deemed uncollectible. Student and other receivables related to write-offs are submitted to the Board of Governors for their approval.

#### n) Budget

Canadian public sector accounting standards require a government organization to present in its financial statements a comparison of the results of operations and changes in net financial assets for the period with those originally planned. The budgeted figures represent the College's original fiscal plan for the year approved by the College's Board of Governors and do not reflect any subsequent adjustments made during the course of the year.

#### 3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2016						2015		
		(in thousands) Accounts Receivable Allowance Net						Net	
Government of the Northwest Territories Federal Government Other Students	\$	299 559 877 244	\$	2 87 32 <u>185</u>	\$	297 472 845 59	\$	447 272 1,413 <u>88</u>	
	\$	1,979	<u>\$</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,673</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>2,220</u>	

#### 4. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFITS

#### a) Pension benefits

The College and all eligible employees contribute to the Public Service Pension Plan (the "Plan"), a contributory defined benefit plan established through legislation and sponsored by the Government of Canada. Contributions are required by both the employees and the College. The President of the Treasury Board of Canada sets the required employer contributions based on a multiple of the employees' required contribution. The general contribution effective at year end was \$1.15 (2015 - \$1.28) for every dollar contributed by the employee, and \$6.67 (2015 - \$7.13) for every dollar contributed by the employee for the portion of the employee's salary above \$162 thousand (2015 - \$158 thousand).

For new employees who are participating in the Plan on or after January 1, 2013, the College contributes \$1.11 (2015 - \$1.28) for every dollar contributed by the employee, and \$6.67 (2015 - \$7.13) for every dollar contributed by the employee for the portion of the employee's salary above \$162 thousand (2015 - \$158 thousand).

The College's and employees' contributions to the Public Service Pension Plan for the year were as follows:

College's contributions Employees' contributions

#### b) Severance, removal and compensated absences

The College provides severance (resignation and retirement), removal and compensated absence (sick, special, maternity and parental leave) benefits to its employees. The benefit plans are not pre funded and thus have no assets, resulting in a plan deficit equal to the accrued benefit obligation.

Severance benefits are paid to the College's employees based on the type of termination (e.g. resignation versus retirement) and appropriate combinations that include inputs such as when the employee was hired, the rate of pay, the number of years of continuous employment and age and the benefit is subject to maximum benefit limits. Removal benefits are subject to several criteria, the main ones being location of hire, employee category and length of service. The benefits under these two categories were valued using the projected unit credit methodology.

#### Aurora College **Notes to the Financial Statements** June 30, 2016

<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>				
(in thous	ands)				
\$ 2,477	\$ 2,568				
1,966	1,776				
<u>\$ 4,443</u>	<u>\$ 4,344</u>				

#### 4. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFITS (continued)

Compensated absence benefits generally accrue as employees render service and are paid upon the occurrence of an event resulting in eligibility for benefits under the terms of the plan. Events include, but are not limited to employee or dependent illness and death of an immediate family member. Non-accruing benefits include maternity and parental leave. Benefits that accrue under compensated absence benefits were actuarially valued using the expected utilization methodology.

#### Valuation results

The actuarial valuation was completed as at June 30, 2016. The effective date of the next actuarial valuation is June 30, 2017. The liabilities are actuarially determined as the present value of the accrued benefits at June 30, 2016. The values presented below are for all of the benefits under the Compensated Absences and Termination Benefits for Aurora College.

	ance and Removal	Compensated Absences	2016	2015
			(in thous	
Changes in Obligation			,	,
Accrued benefit obligations,				
beginning of year	\$1,820	\$450	\$2,270	\$2,274
Current period benefit cost	141	302	443	412
Interest accrued	45	13	58	56
Benefits payments	(361)	(240)	(601)	(472)
Actuarial (gains)/losses	(429)	(60)	(489)	-
Accrued benefit obligations,				
end of year	1,216	465	1,681	2,270
Unamortized net actuarial gain	429	60	489	_
Net future obligation	\$1, <b>645</b>	\$525	\$2,170	\$2,270

Aurora College Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2016

#### 4. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFITS (continued)

	ance and <u>Removal</u>	Compensated <u>Absences</u>	<u>2016</u> (in thousan	<u>2015</u> ids)
Benefits Expense			-	-
Current period benefit cost	\$141	\$302	\$443	\$412
Interest accrued	45	13	58	56
Total	\$186	\$315	\$501	\$468
Assumptions				
Discount rate Rate of compensation increase Inflation rate		<u>June 30, 2016</u> 3.2% per annum 2.0% per annum Nil	<u>June 30,</u> 2.5% per 2.0% per 2.0% per	annum annum
The expected payments during	the next five	e fiscal years are:		
Sever	ance and	Compensated		
	Removal	Absences	Tota	d.
		(in thousa		_
2017	\$280	\$Ì00	ý \$38	0
2018	173	65	238	8
2019	143	52	19	5
2020	121	43	164	4
2021	98	40	138	8
Total	\$815	\$300	\$1,11	5

#### 5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Under collective agreements, the College is required annually to make contributions to the professional development fund, in the amount of a) 3% of eligible instructor's salaries, and b) \$750 for each eligible instructor. Contributions made to the professional development fund are recorded as an expense in the Statement of Operations and accumulated Surplus.

The professional development fund represents accumulated annual provisions for professional development activities, less accumulated eligible professional development expenses. The College expects to settle the obligation based on future eligible expense claims.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	(i	n thousands)
Professional development fund, beginning of year	\$ 1,946	\$ 1,961
Contributions	410	433
Recovery of funds	42	-
Professional development paid during the year	(367)	(448)
Professional development fund, end of year	<u>\$ 2,031</u>	<u>\$ 1,946</u>

<ul> <li>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (in thousands)</li> </ul>						
June 30, 2016	Mobile equipment	Building additions and renovations	Furniture and equipment	Leasehold improvements	2016 Total	2015 Total
<b>Cost</b> Opening balance Additions Disposals Write-off	\$ 5,483 - (429) -	\$ 1,991	\$ 5,418 588 -	\$ 2,140 105 -	\$ 2,140 \$ 15,032 \$ 15,926 105 693 738 - (429) - - <u>(1,557</u> )	15,926 738 (1,557)
Closing balance	5,054	1,991	6,006	2,245	15,296	15,107
Accumulated amortization Opening balance Amortization Disposals Write-off	2,900 236 (353) -	1,742 100	3,910 477	1,366 116	9,918 929 (353)	9,918 10,397 929 1,052 (353) - - <u>(1,456)</u>
Closing balance	2,783	1,842	4,387	1,482	10,494	9,993
Net book value	<u>\$ 2,271</u>	\$ 149	\$ 1,619	\$ 763	<u>\$ 4,802 \$5,114</u>	\$5,114

Aurora College Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2016

<u>ن</u>

#### 7. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

The accumulated surplus balance includes the net book value of tangible capital assets transferred to the College when it was established and the results of operations since that date. The following appropriations have been made from accumulated surplus:

			(in thousands)		
Reserves	Balance, opening July 1, 2015	Net results of operations	Appropriated	Used in operations	Balance, ending June 30, 2016
a) Mallik research					
reserve	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100
b) Northern					
strategic	492	-	5	-	498
research	102		Ũ		100
reserve					
c) Program					
delivery	300	-	-	-	300
d) Research &				(07)	
development	145	-	36	(37)	144
e) HEO					
replacement &					
maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
f) Restricted donations	35				25
uonations	35	-	-	-	35
Total reserves	1,072	-	41	(37)	1,077
				· · ·	
Operating surplus (deficit)	6,725	878	(41)	37	7,598
Total accumulated surplus	\$ 7,797	\$ 878	\$-	\$ -	\$ 8,675

#### Aurora College Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2016

#### 7. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (continued)

#### a) Mallik research reserve

This appropriation was established from the surplus of the Methane Hydrate Research project to set funds aside to complete the scientific publishing.

#### b) Northern strategic research reserve

This appropriation was established from the surplus of the Methane Hydrate Research project to set funds aside for strategic research conducted in the north which will benefit northerners.

#### c) Program delivery

This appropriation is established to cover program costs contemplated in the annual Programs and Services Proposal prepared by the College, for which Government funding has not been approved. Allocations to and from this appropriation must be approved by the Board of Governors.

#### d) Research & development

This appropriation is established to help fund research and development of the Research Associate and Fellowship programs at the Aurora Research Institute (ARI). Annually all unencumbered ARI administration revenue after fulfillment of third party contracts is transferred to this appropriation. Use of the appropriation must be approved by the Research Advisory Council.

#### e) HEO (Heavy Equipment Operator) replacement & maintenance

This appropriation is established to help fund replacement and maintenance of the HEO program heavy equipment. Annually net equipment rental fees charged to the third party contractors for HEO courses are transferred to this appropriation. Use of the appropriation must be approved by the Board of Governors.

#### f) Restricted donations

From time to time, the College receives donations from individuals and corporations with conditions attached to them. In order to ensure that the wishes of the contributors are carried out, the donations are transferred to restricted donations until the conditions are met.

#### 8. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	(in thou	isands)
Operating contributions	\$32,947	\$32,325
Capital contributions	457	193
	\$33,404	\$32,518

- - - -

- - - -

#### 9. RELATED PARTIES

The College is related in terms of common ownership to all Government created departments, territorial corporations and public agencies. The College enters into transactions with these entities in the normal course of business at normal trade terms.

The College has Government receivables from tuition revenue, contract revenue and the base funding contribution. The College also owes funds to the Government from administrative agreements for facility operating and utility costs, employee benefits and other expenses. \_ \_ \_ \_ ----

	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>	
		(in t	housand	ds)
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	\$ 299	\$	458	
Amounts due to the Government	\$ 730	\$	1,816	

#### Expenses

Under the terms of administrative agreements, the Government charges for certain support services provided to the College. The College reimbursed the Government \$1,072,000 (2015 – \$820,000) for facility operating and utility costs, employee benefits and other expenses recorded in these statements.

#### **10. SERVICES PROVIDED WITHOUT CHARGE**

During the year, the College received without charge from the Government services including utilities \$2,048,000 (2015 - \$2,495,000) and repairs and maintenance \$1,237,000 (2015 - \$ 1,264,000).

Payroll processing, insurance and risk management, legal counsel, construction management, records storage, computer operations, asset disposal, project management, and translation services were also provided to the College without charge. These services would have cost the College an estimated \$257,000 (2015 – \$216,000)

### 10. SERVICES PROVIDED WITHOUT CHARGE (continued)

based on the exchange amount confirmed by the related parties.

The College also receives from the Government, without any rental charges, the use of facilities for two of its campuses, certain student housing units and community learning centres. The use of these facilities would have cost the College an estimated \$1,841,000 (2015 – \$ 1,818,000) based on the Government's amortization expense for these assets.

The Government also pays for medical travel costs for the College. The medical travel costs paid by the Government on behalf of the College for the period amounted to \$347,000 (2015 - \$ 213,000).

Contract services Repairs and maintenance **Building utilities Building leases** Medical travel

#### **11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

The College is subject to claims and lawsuits arising in the ordinary course of operations. While the outcome of these matters is subject to future resolution, management's evaluation and analysis of such matters indicates that, individually and in the aggregate, the probable ultimate resolution of such matters will not have a material financial impact on the College's financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

#### Aurora College **Notes to the Financial Statements** June 30, 2016

<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
(in tl	nousands)
\$ 257	\$ 216
1,237	1,264
2,048	2,495
1,841	1,818
347	213
\$ 5,730	\$ 6,006

#### 12. COMMITMENTS

In addition to facilities provided by the Government, the College has operating leases and service agreements for student accommodation, classroom space, office equipment and other services and is committed to basic payments as follows:

	Service	Operating
	<u>agreements</u>	<u>leases</u>
	(in th	nousands)
2017	\$ 221	\$ 4,635
2018	101	2,253
2019	31	1,227
2020	23	529
Thereafter	5	-
	381	\$ 8,644

#### 13. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The College's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, due to Government of the Northwest Territories and are measured at cost. The Corporation has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

#### a) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with its financial liabilities. The College manages its liquidity risk by regularly monitoring forecasted and actual cash flows. The College does not believe that it will encounter difficulty in meeting its future obligations associated with its financial liabilities.

#### b) Credit risk

The College is exposed to credit risk on its cash and accounts receivable.

#### Cash

Credit risk on cash is minimized as these assets are held with a Canadian Chartered bank, the maximum exposure to credit risk is \$9,060,000 (2015 - \$8,848,000).

#### Accounts receivable

Credit risk on accounts receivable arises from the possibility that the customer fails to meet their obligations. This risk is influenced by the type of debtor and at 30 June 2016

#### Aurora College Notes to the Financial Statements June 30, 2016

#### 13. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

the College's debtors are the Government of the Northwest Territories, federal government, students, and others.

In order to manage this risk, the College monitors the age of accounts receivable and initiates collection action. Credit exposure is minimized by dealing mostly with creditworthy counterparties such as government agencies and the College also enforces approved collection policies for student accounts. The maximum exposure to credit risk is \$1,673,000 (2015 - \$2,220,000).

At 30 June 2016 there are accounts receivable past due but not impaired. These amounts for students are: 31-60 days \$8,000; 61-90 days \$5,000; and over 90 days \$20,000.

These amounts for the Government and for other parties are shown below.

	91-365 days	1 to 2 years	over 2 years
Government of the Northwest Territories	\$1,000	\$3,000	Nil
Other third parties	\$39,000	\$3,000	Nil
Federal Government	\$124,000	\$1,000	Nil

The College establishes an allowance for doubtful accounts that reflects the estimated impairment of accounts receivable. The allowance is based on specific amounts and is determined by considering the College's knowledge of the financial condition of customers, the aging of accounts receivable, current business condition and historical experience.

#### c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The College is exposed to interest rate risk in that changes in market interest rates will cause fluctuations in the interest revenue from cash. This risk is not significant due to the short terms to maturity of cash.

Although management monitors exposure to interest rate fluctuations, it does not employ any interest rate management policies to counteract interest rate fluctuations.

The College is not exposed to significant currency or other price risks.

#### **14. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

The fair values of the cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and due to Government of the Northwest Territories approximate their carrying amounts because of the short term to maturity.

#### **15. SEGMENT DISCLOSURE**

The College is a multi-campus institution designed to provide a wide variety of educational services to adult learners of the Northwest Territories (NWT). For management reporting purposes the College's operations and activities are organized and reported by funds (Schedule A). Funds were created for the purpose of recording specific activities to attain certain objectives in accordance with the budget, strategy and work plan, restrictions or limitations. The College's services are provided by departments and their activities are reported in these funds.

Certain departments that have been separately disclosed in the segmented information, along with the services they provide, are as follows:

#### Finance and accounting

Finance's role is to ensure the long term viability of the College including the preparation and controls over the budgets, financial reporting, the implementation and oversight of financial controls, and management of the cash flows. Finance includes the functioning of the head office and regional offices.

#### **Pooled services**

This represents College wide expenditures which are required for the global operation. These represent allocation of costs related to professional development, amortization, cost of employee future benefits, and costs for the President's Office. The Office of the President includes services related to the operations of the College, plus communications and public relations. The Office of the President is mandated to manage the daily operations of the College, pursue its missions and vision, and develop and implement a strategic plan to ensure the long term success of the College.

#### Student services

Student services include Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and Inuvik locations facilities and the registrar and regional admission offices.

#### Education and training

Education and training includes the vice-president education and training, school of trades, school of education, school of business and leadership, school of health and human services, school of arts and science, information systems and technology, and the

#### **15. SEGMENT DISCLOSURE (continued)**

library.

#### **Community and extensions**

Community and extensions represents special programs and additional resources provided to the communities through the College. This includes the school of developmental studies, the Beaufort Delta region, the Sahtu region, the Dehcho region, the Tlicho region, and the Akaitcho and South Slave region.

#### Aurora Research Institute

Through the work of the Aurora Research Institute, the College is also responsible to conduct and facilitate research activities in the NWT.

#### **16. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year. This includes the 2015 cash equivalents balance that was reclassified to cash to better reflect the underlying nature of these items.

#### Aurora College **Notes to the Financial Statements** June 30, 2016

			Aur Segmen Jur	Aurora College Segmented disclosures June 30, 2016	e sures ì			Sche	Schedule A
For the period ended June 30, 2016	Financial and accounting (in thousands)	Pooled services ** (in thousands)	Student services (in thousands)	Education and training (in thousands	iducation Community and and training extensions (in thousands)	Aurora Research Institute (in thousands)	2016 Total (in thousands)	2016 Budget (in thousands)	2016 2015 Budget Total (in thousands) (in thousands)
Revenues Government Contributions	\$ 1,753	\$ 3,178	\$ 9,091	\$ 10,489	\$ 7,260	\$ 1,633	\$ 33,404	\$ 32,936	\$ 32,518
Other Contributions Services Provided without Charge Government of the Northwest Territories Other third party contributions Federal government	 S	1,841 - 19	- 10 -	3,889 2,163 1,900 -	- 810 363 1,488	- 262 175	5,730 3,274 2,558 1,663	5,000 3,549 2,721 1,730	6,006 3,856 2,312 2,473
Own Source Revenue Tuition fees Recoveries and other Room and board	- 29	- 255 -	72 162 729	964 718 -	800 26 -	- 79 -	1,836 1,269 798	815 339 778	1,732 1,026 794
Interest income	<u>104</u> 1,886	- 5,293	- 10,103	20,123	- 10,747	2,484	<u>104</u> 50,636	95 47,963	<u>113</u> 50,830
Expenses Compensation and benefits Building leases Materials and supplies Utilities	1,708 - 18	1,472 1 310 -	4,617 4,973 236 156	11,844 1,841 732 2.058	8,468 - 3	1,938 - 73	30,047 6,815 1,587 2.227	29,494 9,911 1,805 219	30,255 6,982 1,839 2.687
Contract services Contract services Repairs and maintenance Small equipment Fees and payments Travel and accommodation Professional services Amortization of tangible capital assets Communication, postage and freight	49 2 45 45 69 - 2 7966	380 1,244 531 141 8 8 929 929 5,169	226 31 45 45 7 7 98 98	-243 276 429 469 310 573 - 195 -	309 49 45 17 193 956 10,450	329 6 72 127 157 - - - 2,691	1,391 1,803 1,803 1,247 1,562 929 929 700 700	2,475 1,473 1,473 1,244 1,206 451 49,103	2,157 1,797 1,797 1,271 1,271 1,290 1,052 719 51,945
Annual surplus (deficit)	\$ (80)	\$ 124	\$ (409)	<b>\$</b> 1.153	\$ 297	\$ (207)	\$ 878	\$ (1.140)	\$ (1.115)

\*\* Pooled Services includes the revenues and expenses for the President's Office



www.auroracollege.nt.ca