



**AURORA COLLEGE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2006/2007**

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# **Aurora College Annual Report 2006/2007**



# Letter of Transmittal

The Honourable Jackson Lafferty  
Minister, Education, Culture and Employment

On behalf of the Aurora College Board of Governors, I am pleased to present to you the Aurora College Annual Report for the academic year 2006-2007.

The past year has proven to be a very successful one for Aurora College. Not only did we expand our programs and services to meet new educational needs, we have successfully worked with our partners in government and industry to ensure that the College has been able to continue to meet the evolving needs of the NWT labour market. As always, College management and staff have worked hard to meet a broad range of education goals, and to ensure that our programs and services assist our graduates in achieving success in their chosen careers.

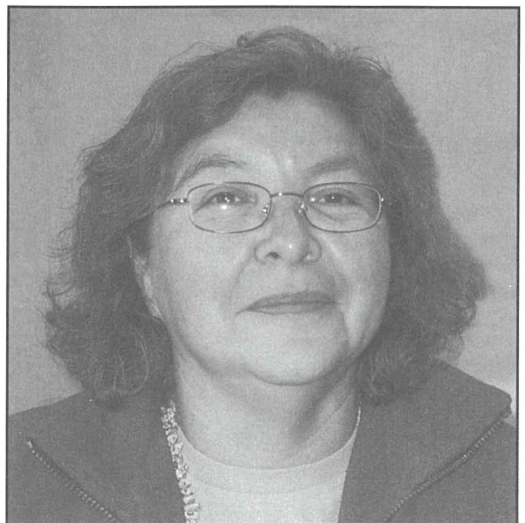
This year, the Board underwent some significant changes in our roster as many long time members came to the end of their terms. We were fortunate in that we have assembled an excellent group of new members, and our new team quickly hit their stride. The Board has taken steps to educate new members as to the current status of College operations, and we have held a number of workshops to develop various skills and nurture the talents of our membership.

The Board has once again enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, which enabled us to remain closely attuned to the needs of schools, employers and the NWT labour market. We are proud of the results of our work from the past year, and we look forward to continuing to meet our mandate in the coming academic year.

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I thank you for your co-operation and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

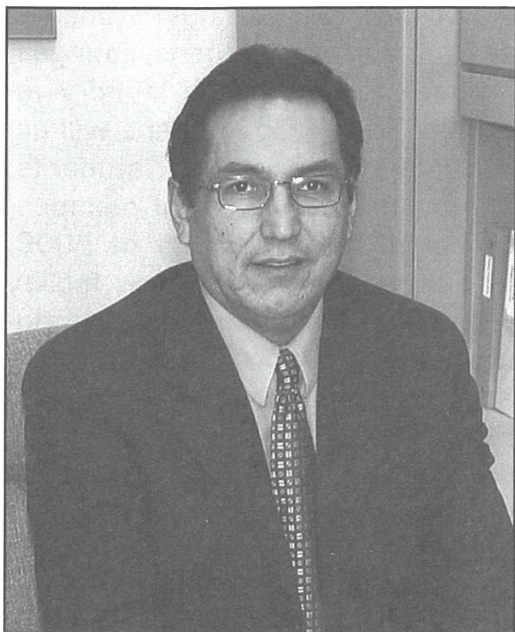


Josie Weninger  
Chairperson  
Aurora College  
Board of Governors





## Report from the President



Aurora College has completed another busy and successful year. While we enjoyed strong enrolments in many areas, we nonetheless examined our programs and services in order to find ways to maximize the effectiveness of the training and education we offer to Northerners.

The result of this examination was a decision to reorganize some of our program delivery locations in order to reinvigorate the programs and expose them to a different client base. To this end, we relocated the Social Work Program from Fort Smith to Yellowknife and the Recreation Leaders Program from Inuvik to Fort Smith. Both programs enjoyed strong enrolments this year, and have settled into their new locations well.

In Inuvik, we established a new program through a brokering agreement with Canadore College in North Bay, Ontario. The Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention Program will prepare

students to work with individuals and families dealing with issues of addictions and other personal issues. The program has attracted a strong cohort of students for this year, and we look forward to its ongoing success.

While we have completed our major planning processes with the completion of our strategic plan last year, we have worked to integrate the plan into our day-to-day operations. College senior managers met last March to establish timelines for the completion of corporate goals and to identify which areas require additional resources. This action plan is currently being implemented, and we look forward to continuing our work in the coming years.

Another major project that the College is undertaking through our research division, the Aurora Research Institute (ARI), is the Mallik Gas Hydrates project. The project is a result of an agreement with Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) and the Japanese Oil Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC), to assist with the delivery of a major research project in the Inuvik region. The project is designed to identify ways to extract natural gas from hydrates frozen within the Arctic permafrost and to evaluate possible methods of exploration and extraction. This is the largest single project the Aurora Research Institute has ever undertaken, and it speaks well to the capacity and expertise resident in ARI.

### **Planning Initiatives**

Our current major planning initia-

tive involves implementing the workplan we developed for our strategic plan *Strong Foundations – New Horizons*. College senior managers met in March to examine the goals set in our strategic plan and to prioritize them according to timeliness and the need for additional resources. The resulting document outlined the steps we will pursue in the short, medium and long term and the additional resources required to pursue these goals. We are currently working to obtain the new resources, a process which will take place within our business planning framework.

### **Connecting with Northerners**

Although student enrolment numbers remained consistent in many areas over the past few years, we have stepped up our effort to connect Northerners with the educational opportunities Aurora College has to offer. Last year, we hired a student recruiter to travel to communities and regions throughout the NWT to meet with prospective students. This allows the College to reach out on a personal level, which we believe is a more effective communication model. This position has been extended to the end of the 2007-2008 academic year, at which time we will measure the impact on student enrolments.

### **Facility Development**

The major new facility in production this year is the single student residence for Aurora Campus in Inuvik. The project is currently well underway, and is scheduled for completion in November. The new building is located adjacent to the

recently-completed Aurora Campus building, and will feature living spaces for 30 single students, as well as four kitchens, lounges, a recreation room and laundry facilities. The group kitchens will accommodate six to eight students. The building is slated for occupancy beginning in January of 2008. The completion of the new facility will enable the campus to reconfigure College houses back to family accommodations. Ten three-bedroom townhouse units had previously been converted to single student accommodations to fill the gap until the new facility has been completed.

It has once again been an active and busy year as we continued to work toward improving the programs and services we provide to the people of the Northwest Territories. I would like to thank the students and staff for their hard work over the past year, as well as the College Board of Governors for their steady guidance and leadership despite a significant change in membership over the course of the academic year.



Maurice Evans  
President



## Report from the Vice President, Academics

The Vice President, Academic is responsible for the Policy and Programs division of Aurora College. Policy and Programs play a vital role in maintaining the integrity of the College's programming and in expanding our academic relationships with other educational institutions. The division is also responsible for the behind-the-scenes work involved in developing and updating the policy framework that guides Aurora College operations.

Typically, this makes for a very busy year and 2006/2007 was no different. Among this year's major projects were the following:

- Relocation of two diploma programs;
- Review of Apprenticeship programs and the Natural Resources Technology Program (NRTP);
- Inaugural delivery of the Environmental Monitor Training program; and
- Investment in underground mine training simulators.

### **Programs relocated**

In 2006/2007, much time and effort were devoted to preparing the Social Work program and the Recreation Leaders Program (RLP) for their respective transitions to new Campus locations. In the hopes of increasing the number of students in the programs, the Social Work program will be moved to Yellowknife Campus from Thebacha Campus, and RLP will be moved to Thebacha Campus from Aurora Campus. Both programs will begin

delivery in their new locations in September 2007.

### **Programs reviewed**

In 2006/2007, two Apprenticeship programs were reviewed to ensure they met the prescribed standards of their trade. The reviews of the Apprenticeship Carpentry and Apprenticeship Welding programs were initiated by the Northwest Territories Apprenticeship Board and administered by the Apprenticeship Division of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE). The reviews involved the examination of program outlines, course content, instructor and student resources, instructor qualifications, facilities and equipment, and adherence to Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

The Natural Resources Technology Program (NRTP) was also reviewed in 2006/2007 to determine whether the content of the program is meeting the needs of students and employers. The College chose to conduct a comprehensive external review of the program, a decision which was approved by the President and endorsed by NRTP staff and the NRTP Advisory Committee. The results of the review are expected to be released during the summer of 2007.

### **New program delivered**

2006/2007 was the inaugural year for the delivery of the Environmental Monitor Training program. Delivered in partnership with BEAHR (Building Environmental Aboriginal Human Resources), the five-week



program provides students with the foundation, knowledge, and skills to meaningfully participate in environmental monitoring activities. It is aimed at those individuals who are interested in working in the environmental sector and require pre-technician level training on environmental concepts and measures. The program prepares graduates for work on various projects, such as pipeline construction, seismic, fishing, mining, oil and gas operations, and more. In the first year of delivery, the program successfully trained 92 environmental monitors in nine programs across the territory, with an outstanding 88 per cent retention rate.

### **Underground mine training simulators**

The order of one full-scale and three desk-top underground mine training simulators was a major investment for the College in 2006/2007. The first two units are expected to be delivered to Yellowknife Campus in November 2007, and the remaining two units are expected to arrive in July 2008. The purchase of the simulators, which will cost a total of \$1.3 million, will be made possible through a partnership between Aurora College and BHP Billiton Diamonds Inc., Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., De Beers Canada Mining Inc., and the Government of the Northwest Territories. These simulators will facilitate the training of a northern, underground mine workforce by providing efficient, hands-on underground mine training in a safe and controlled environment. Students will use the simulators for training on multiple pieces of

equipment including a load haul dump vehicle, underground mining drilling rig, roof bolter, and underground front-end loader.

Over the past year, the collegial efforts of the Policy and Programs staff and regional faculty and staff have greatly enhanced the College and ensured consistent, high-quality program delivery throughout the NWT. We look forward with confidence to the challenges of the future as we continue to build on our past successes.

Margaret Imrie  
Vice President, Academic

# REPORT ON THE 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR

## Student Enrolments

### STUDENT ENROLMENT BY LOCATION:

Campus	Full Time Students	Part Time Courses	2007 Full Time Equivalent	2006 Full Time Equivalent
Aurora	144	3,371	481.1	491.3
Thebacha	288	1,761	516.2	555.1
Yellowknife	214	1,984	412.4	398.8
Total College	646	7,116	1,409.7	1,445.2

**FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE):** 1 full time student equals 1 FTE. Ten part time courses equal 1 FTE except for apprentices where the ratio is 4:1.

### **FULL TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS BY LOCATION BY PROGRAM DIVISION:**

Division	Aurora	Thebacha	Yellow-knife	2007 Totals	2006 Totals
Academic	146.5	100.8	96.8	344.1	302.4
University Partnerships	0	3.3	0.4	3.7	.5
Alberta North Distance Learning	0	.7	0	.7	7.1
Credit	57.3	97.3	160.0	314.6	347.2
Trades	13.2	257.9	38.2	309.3	301.1
Career Development	243.6	54.0	109.7	407.5	460.7
Personal Development	20.5	2.2	7.1	29.8	26.2
Total	481.1	516.2	412.4	1,409.7	1,445.2

# Enrolment Highlights

## **Aurora Campus**

There is an increase in the Academic programs of 18.4 per cent and Career Development of 4.1 per cent. The increases are due to higher enrolments because of the Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership for these programs. The Personal Development program enrolments are significantly higher than last year's figures by 64 per cent.

Trades program enrolments have decreased because of other trades courses continuing to be captured under the Career Development division and are delivered as Employment Non Credit courses. The types of courses that are delivered are in the areas of Health and Safety and Oil & Gas.

Credit program enrolments have decreased of 33.6 per cent. The Campus did not run the Criminal Justice Program and the Recreation Leaders Program will be moved in 2007-2008 to Thebacha Campus. Other credit programs enrolments are stable.

## **Thebacha Campus**

There were increases in enrolments in the Academic programs by 22.03 per cent, University Partnerships by 700 per cent and the Trades programs by 8.63 per cent. The Access programs show an increase in enrolments and the University of the Arctic had a large intake of registrants this past year. The Trades program increase is due to two intakes in the spring term for the Mineral Processing program.

The Credit, Alberta North, Career Development and Personal Development programs all show a decrease in enrolments. We did not have the first year intake in the Natural Resources Technology program and some programs were down slightly in enrolments. The Alberta North division has fewer registrations this year, and is still being delivered from the Hay River Learning Centre.

Overall, Thebacha has a decrease in enrolments of 7.0 per cent.

## **Yellowknife**

All programs but the Career Development areas at Yellowknife Campus are showing an increase in enrolments.

Academic Program enrolments increased by .72 per cent with continued growth in the delivery of such programs as Construction Trades Access, Welding Trades Access and the Tlicho Community Education Preparation Program.

University Partnership program enrolments have an increase of 300 per cent because of the delivery of Athabasca University courses.

Credit program enrolments have an increase of 2.56 per cent because of higher registrations in all programs. The Trades programs show an increase of 32.18 per cent because of the delivery of the Introduction to Mining Industry Pre Employment program. The Personal Development program has increased by 14.5 per cent with increased enrolments. Career De-



velopment is showing a slight decrease of 1.61 per cent because of fewer enrolments.

Aurora College operates campuses and community learning centres throughout the NWT. This system

of post-secondary educational facilities comprises a modern and responsive educational community that works hard to meet the ongoing educational and training needs of the people of the NWT.

**STUDENT ENROLMENT BY LOCATION (student count):**

Campus	Full Time Students	Part Time Students	2007 Total Students	2006 Total Students
Aurora	144	1,538	1,682	1,467
Thebacha	288	751	1,039	1,524
Yellowknife	214	1,000	1,214	1,186
Total College	646	3,289	3,935	4,177

## College Highlights throughout the North

Aurora College operates campuses and community learning centres throughout the NWT. This system of post-secondary educational facilities comprises a modern and responsive educational community that works hard to meet the ongoing educational and training needs of the people of the NWT.

### Aurora Campus

Aurora Campus students and staff won a number of prestigious awards this year. Ministerial Literacy Educator Award 2006 was awarded to our Developmental Studies Instructor Suzanne Robinson. In addition, one of her students, Cindy Voudrach was awarded the Council of the Federation National Literacy Award. Also, the CN Scholarship for Women was awarded to Raquel Nuttall, a student in the Trades Access Program.

The construction of the new single student residence in Inuvik is well underway, and is on schedule to be completed in November of 2007. The facility will be ready for occupation in January of 2008, and will provide housing for 30 single students. The building also includes lounges, a recreation room, laundry facilities and kitchens.

The Trades Access Program, which is funded by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and Labour Market Initiative (LMIT) funding, has proven to be extremely popular. Enrolment of 16 students this year required the hiring of a sec-

ond instructor. This program is increasing in popularity since first delivered 4 years ago.

A Mobile Trades Training Unit will be acquired this fall for the delivery of training programs in communities through the Beaufort Delta Region that are accessible by road. The rig was funded through a cost-sharing arrangement with the GTC, the IRC, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the MAC Group and the Government of the NWT. The training unit is a tractor-trailer that is essentially a mobile classroom equipped with a variety of trades-related equipment. The Campus looks forward to being able to extend trades training in to new community locations starting in early 2008.

Partnerships continue to be a major component in the success of Aurora Campus. The Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu are investing large amounts of their Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agency and Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership dollars into programs and courses delivered by the College. The Chief and Council of Colville Lake are providing financial support for people to attend upgrading, the Deline Land Corporation is financially assisting students taking safety courses and the Yamoga Land Corporation in Radilih Koe (Fort Good Hope) is assisting with child care costs and other supports. As well, the education departments of the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in continue to support students in numerous ways.

Employers in numerous communities are allowing staff to attend the Learning Center during work hours, to work on writing, math skills and other foundational learning. In Fort Good Hope, students who wish to become employees involved in the construction of the new school are enrolled in evening classes taking Trades Math, Science and English. This type of grass roots training provides a tangible link between education and employment opportunities.

Traditional knowledge (TK) is a major component of many programs offered through the College, and Aurora Campus has always been particularly successful in integrating TK into their programming. Throughout the academic upgrading program, traditional and cultural beliefs are emphasized, and most of the issues covered are looked at from the perspectives of First Nations people. The medicine wheel is used for our Career Life Works Program. Self awareness units are coordinated with the Aurora College Curriculum and the medicine wheel unit is designed by Elders. There are four units for the year: medicine wheel, adaptability to change, positive self concept and empowerment. The class is done in both English and North Slavey.

### **Yellowknife Campus**

The Yellowknife Campus Library spent a great deal of time this year updating the nursing collection in preparation for the program accreditation review in November of 2007. With the start of the Social Work Program, Campus staff have been ordering library materials and

preparing for the arrival of social work journal holdings from Thebacha Campus library. The forced growth caused through these expansions has created some space issues for the library, and solutions are being sought to alleviate the storage challenges.

There was much to celebrate in the Student Success Centre (SSC) this year. In April, the Campus celebrated National Volunteer Week with tokens of appreciation throughout the week for the countless hours the volunteer tutors have devoted to the program. A luncheon, which spanned a couple of hours, was hosted at the Campus and students and tutors were able to drop in and share a visit with each other in a social setting. This year, the SSC at all three campuses were awarded the Service Quality Award from the Board of Governors.

The community of Behchoko (formerly Rae) has had a very busy year, with the delivery of Teacher Education Access (TEP) and the Community Education Preparation Program (CEPP). Both programs were completed in June 2007 with seven graduates for CEPP and thirteen for TEP Access. Work is underway to transition students to the Aboriginal Language Cultural Instructor Program and the three year Teacher Education Diploma Program. Behchoko has also seen delivery of courses in Office Procedures and Effective Writing Skills. The Catholic Mission is being used as classroom space since TEP Access and CEPP are in the community learning centre.



Community Learning Centres (CLC) throughout the Yellowknife Campus service region have been quite busy this year:

- Gameti: Ten students successfully completed the Environmental Monitor program in Gameti in partnership with the Tlicho and Mine Training Society.
- Dettah Ndilo: The CLC offered the Train The Trainer course for First Aid and one applicant was successful. They have since instructed in community based First Aid Courses and received their Instructor Certification. Firearm Safety and Road Side Driving Training have also been delivered. An in-depth community needs assessment was completed with door to door surveys and the results have been presented in the community.
- WhaTi: The CLC continues to have good student commitment to Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE). A First Aid training course was run successfully this year as well.

### **Thebacha Campus**

The Environmental Monitor Program (EMP) has proven to be one of the College's most successful programs since delivery began two years ago. It was run nine times over the past academic year, with 92 of 104 participants successfully completing the program. Deliveries this year took place in the following locations:

- Sachs Harbour EMP - The program was offered in partnership with the Inuvialuit Regional Cor-

poration and Aurora College with in-kind contributions from Parks Canada and the Sachs Harbour Community Corporation in Sachs Harbour. Five out of eight successfully completed the program.

- Gameti EMP - The program was offered in partnership with Tlicho Government and the Mine Training Society in the community of Gameti (Rae Lakes). In addition Diavik Diamond Mines and WeKeezhii Land and Water Board were involved in the development of the program and Diavik committed to hire at least one and possibly two of the program graduates immediately upon successful completion. Ten out of ten students successfully completed the program.

- K'atodeeche EMP - The program was offered in partnership with K'atodeeche First Nation and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment in the K'atodeeche Band office (Hay River Reserve). Ten out of fifteen students successfully completed the program.

- Fort Smith EMP - The program was offered in partnership with the NWT Metis Nation, Salt River First Nations, and Akaitcho Tribal Council. Thirteen out of fourteen students successfully completed the program.

The Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program (ALCIP) enjoyed great success this year. Aurora College, in partnership with the regional Divisional Education Councils, offered nine ALCIP courses over the past year with

eighty-nine successful students. The College has received funding for the full time delivery of ALCIP in Behchoko in the 2007/2008 academic year. In addition, we will be delivering 1-2 ALCIP courses in each of the South Slave, Deh Cho, Yellowknife, Sahtu, and Beaufort-Delta regions. ALCIP is an essential component of the long term plan to enhance the quality of Aboriginal language and culture-based education in all NWT schools.

While distributed learning services are not yet at the level we would like them to be, we did have some activity in this area this year. Students in Hay River took on-line upgrading courses that were offered through Northern Lakes College. Courses included English 30-2, Socials 30, and Math Prep 10. The students enjoyed the courses and liked the interaction that this type of distance education provides. Students and the learning facilitator went to their Slave Lake Campus for a lab day. This allowed them to see their fellow students and their instructor in a face-to-face setting. Furthermore, two instructors went to Hay River in April to visit the learning centre and to teach the courses from there. They were glad they came and enjoyed their Northern experience immensely.

College programming in Fort Simpson was extremely successful this year in terms of programs offered and interest from students. Two full-time students completed the Management Studies Access Program which will prepare them to move on to the Management Stud-

ies Diploma Program at one of our campuses. Developmental Studies saw a number of students coming through the door at various times of the year. Three full time two part time students also completed the Construction Trades Access Program. In all, twenty-seven students enjoyed a Celebration of Learning ceremony which was held in June to commemorate their accomplishments.

## Aurora Research Institute

The Aurora Research Institute (ARI) has been a hub of activity this year, with several new and existing initiatives promising to keep staff and facilities busy through the summer and fall of 2007.

Several of ARI's major independent programs continued to enjoy major success with significant territorial developments in wind energy research, International Polar Year activities and our remediation projects becoming both well established and well recognized across the NWT.

The ARI staff has made significant progress developing seeds from plant collections from the Beaufort Coast to the North Slave potentially useful in revegetation programs.

ARI also continues with the development of strategies to deal with waste mud from northern drilling operations. Renewable energy programs received a boost when ARI was approached by the Tuktoyaktuk Community Corp. to assist with the development of commercial wind energy research. A major wind energy conference is being proposed for the Inuvik region largely as a result of the leadership in this field consistently demonstrated by ARI.

A report is now available regarding ARI staff's research into possible ground water contaminants from the long burning Inuvik dump fire. A speculative examination of NWT plants for suitability as a natural source of ink has resulted in a prom-

ising response from an industry lab in the US and may result in the filing of a patent in the next year.

ARI has received widespread support from various agencies across the NWT to act as the central coordinating body to deal with issues related to the International Polar Year (IPY). As a result of a recommendation to the federal IPY Program Office, ARI was named as the coordinating office, however no terms of reference have been developed to guide our funding application to the federal government. It had been assumed that this funding would allow ARI to keep on staff a coordinator and a licensing assistant, but most importantly to develop community outreach and education programs to ensure that NWT communities actually benefit from the \$150 million dollars allocated by Canada to the IPY. In addition to coordination, it is still hoped that money will be forthcoming to provide increased levels of logistic support. ARI continues to work with the NWT IPY Advisory Committee and the National IPY Logistics Infrastructure and Emergency Response Committee to ensure that both scientists and NWT communities work together safely throughout the IPY.

Without a doubt the most significant source of excitement at ARI remains our very active participation in the Mallik Gas Hydrates Drilling and Production Test Program. Participation in a project of this size as a managing partner remains a serious breakthrough for ARI.



## **ARI Activity Highlights**

### **Mallik Program 2006-2008**

Despite many operational challenges throughout the winter of 2007, research into gas hydrate production at the Mallik Bay site on Richards Island met with success on April 2, when solid natural gas from roughly 850 meters below ground was successfully separated into pure liquid water and natural gas. For the following three days gas was periodically flared and overall production exceeded the predicted volumes by a wide margin. Testing ended before the planned 15-day test period was completed due to technical difficulties in the well and also due to the fact that the weather was rapidly warming. Testing was halted on April 5 of this year so that well completion activities, moving the rig, and clean up could be accomplished without putting crews or the environment at risk. The winter 2007 activities at Mallik Bay came to a halt April 17 when the Harry Channel Ice road became impassable due to overflow.

### **Logistic Support for Research**

ARI continues to play a key role in supporting Government of Canada Science, Canadian University based programs as well as a limited amount of industrial research by providing lab space, accommodations, transportation, equipment and technical support. Research logistics in the Inuvik Region has been a key role for ARI in Inuvik keeping all staff busy during the intensive summer field season. The total funds recovered by ARI through the application of user

fees will exceed \$100,000 for the period ending June 30, 2006. This recovery of expenses has allowed the ARI to replace and repair equipment which will in turn provide additional revenues.

### **Community Based Ice Monitoring Program**

The Sea Ice Monitoring Project started by ARI over four years ago is expected to end this fiscal year. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans had secured previous years' funding through an agreement with Environment Canada which has unfortunately not been renewed. It is anticipated that equipment will be shipped out of the Beaufort communities starting in late June. Data will be processed by research partners at the University of Manitoba. It is anticipated that ARI managers will pursue funding to continue this valuable climate change research however current expectations for new money are low.

### **Alternate Energy Programs: Wind Monitoring Program**

The wind monitoring program currently has equipment recording wind data in six Northwest Territories communities: Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, Inuvik and Yellowknife. The interim progress report completed in February identified four coastal communities that have significant wind energy. The report suggests continued monitoring in Ulukhaktok, and suggests sites for the wind towers to be moved for further monitoring in Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk.

The Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk and Tuktoyaktuk Development Corporation have expressed interest in seeing further wind monitoring in Tuktoyaktuk at a more optimal location near the hamlet and are interested in considering a wind turbine development for the community. As a result of the interest from the community of Tuktoyaktuk the ARI completed a second study: A pre-feasibility report on a potential wind energy project in Tuktoyaktuk. This report reiterated the need to identify the best available wind turbine site near the community and recommended a number of steps that should be undertaken to consider a wind development near this community.

ARI has submitted a proposal to the GNWT's Department of Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) to secure funds to move the wind monitoring station near Tuktoyaktuk this summer to a more optimal location near the hamlet. This work will be completed in July with our wind consultant, wind monitor in Tuktoyaktuk and the two technicians at ARI.

An NWT Wind Steering committee was formed in November 2006. This committee includes representatives from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, ENR and the GNWT Department of Industry Tourism and Investment, the Arctic Energy Alliance and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. This committee meets to promote wind energy in the NWT. A subgroup from this committee is in the process of planning a Wind Conference/ Workshop in Tuktoyaktuk in

November. ARI is actively involved in this planning process.

### **Social Sciences Programs**

Work continues with the Social Economy Research Network of Northern Canada (SERNNNoCA). The Manager, Scientific Services, is involved in this SSHRC-sponsored project as the NWT Node. To date, she has compiled a preliminary listing of voluntary, non-profit organizations in the NWT, and has also assisted the research team by providing information on the ARI Research Agenda Survey and in general, licensed social science research undertaken in the NWT since 1996. Future activities related to SERNNNoCA include assisting in administering a survey aimed at determining the characteristics of social economy organizations (e.g., locations, activities, size, membership, structure, etc.) in the NWT, and ascertaining the research needs of these organizations specific to issues of volunteerism, social capital and social enterprise.

### **Drilling Waste Project**

ARI has begun investigating the feasibility of recycling drilling mud used in oil and gas exploration. The disposal of drilling mud has required the digging of sump pits which are an ongoing source of dispute between the industry and the local hunters and trappers committees in the region. By investigating the reuse and recycling of drilling mud, ARI may be able to offer a solution to a potential impasse. Two chemical engineering students worked on the project for the summer and have produced a

draft report which is currently under review. There has been good support from industry on the initiative with several producers and one drilling mud company expressing interest in collaborating with ARI. MI Swaco Ltd., a supplier of drilling fluids and other oil field services, brought our students to their facilities and various drilling locations in Alberta to help them develop programs at ARI.

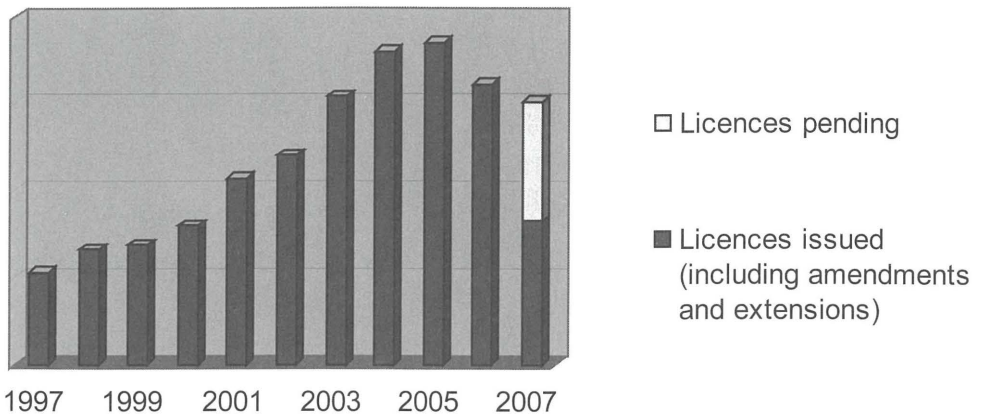
ing to the licensing trend observed over time increases proportionally by year.

## **RESEARCH LICENSING**

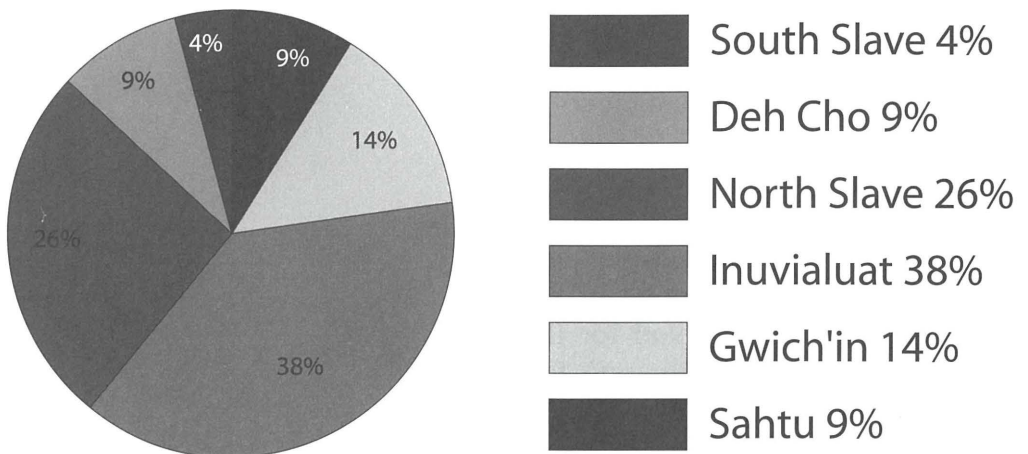
The vast majority of research license applications for 2006-2007 were submitted using the Portal to Online Licensing Applications for Research or POLAR ([www.nwtresearch.com/POLAR](http://www.nwtresearch.com/POLAR)). Over 200 applications were received in 2006-2007 and to date 82 licenses have been issued with 69 currently pending. Overall review of current regional distribution of applications indicates that the majority of research activity is proposed for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, followed by the North Slave region. Licenses issued for work in these two regions comprise 64 per cent of the overall number of licenses issued for research projects in the NWT. Licenses issued for research projects in the physical and biological sciences accounted for 68 per cent of the total volume. To date, 10 license applications have been received from IPY proponents, of which three licenses have been issued. The number of IPY-related license applications is anticipated to increase as the year proceeds, as with the number of general license applications, which accord-



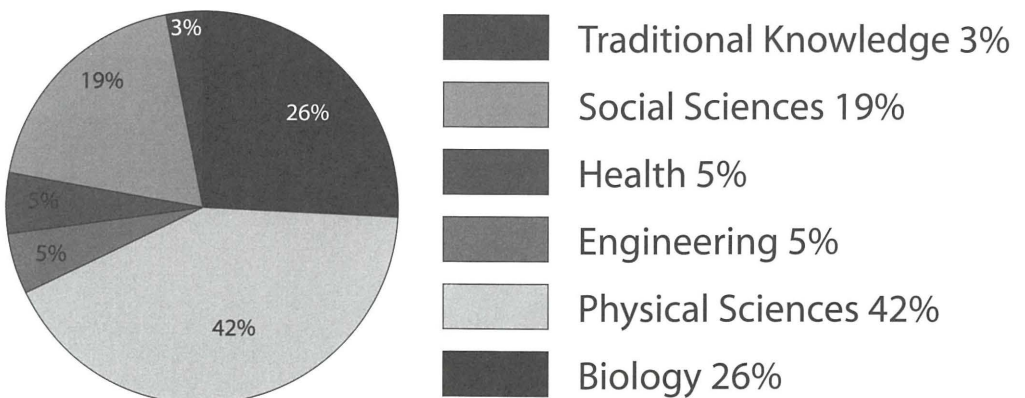
**Figure 1. ARI Overall Licensing Trend  
(1996 to June 4, 2007)**



**Figure 2. Proportions of Licenced Research by Region:  
January 1 - June 4, 2007**



**Figure 3. Proportions of Licenced Research by Category:  
January 1 - June 4, 2007**



**AURORA COLLEGE**  
Audited Financial Statements  
June 30, 2007

# AURORA COLLEGE

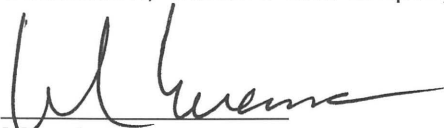
## MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 generally accepted accounting principles. When alternative accounting policies exist, management has chosen those it deems most appropriate in the circumstances. Management's best estimates and judgements have been used in the preparation of these statements, where appropriate. Financial information presented elsewhere in the annual report is consistent with that contained in the financial statements.

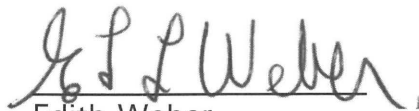
In discharging its responsibility for financial reporting, management maintains and relies on financial and management control systems and practices which are designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded, and proper records are maintained. These controls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

The Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that management fulfils 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 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 her report thereon to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.



Maurice Evans  
President



Edith Weber  
Bursar/Chief Financial Officer

Fort Smith, Canada  
September 21, 2007





## AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

I have audited the balance sheet of the Aurora College as at June 30, 2007 and the statements of operations and equity and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the College's management. 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 plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College as at June 30, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. As required by the *Financial Administration Act*, I report that, in my opinion, these principles 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 the College and the financial statements are in agreement therewith. In addition, the transactions of the College that have come to my notice during my audit of the financial statements have, in all significant respects, been in accordance with Part IX of the *Financial Administration Act* and regulations, the *Aurora College Act* and regulations and the by-laws of the College.

Guy LeGros, CA  
Principal  
for the Auditor General of Canada

Edmonton, Canada  
September 21, 2007

# Aurora College

## BALANCE SHEET as at June 30, 2007 (in thousands)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 5,208	\$ 5,991
Net accounts receivable (Note 4)	23,605	1,206
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>1,518</u>	<u>288</u>
	30,331	7,485
Property and equipment (Note 5)	<u>3,665</u>	<u>3,335</u>
	<b><u>\$ 33,996</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 10,820</u></b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 23,040	\$ 1,674
Employee leave pay	1,309	1,329
Deferred project income	1,817	205
Current portion of employee future benefits (Note 6)	295	277
Due to the Government of the Northwest Territories	<u>385</u>	<u>486</u>
	26,846	3,971
Employee future benefits (Note 6)	884	833
Professional development fund (Note 7)	1,051	896
Deferred capital contributions	<u>1,966</u>	<u>1,485</u>
	30,747	7,185
<b><u>EQUITY</u></b> (Note 8)	<u>3,249</u>	<u>3,635</u>
	<b><u>\$ 33,996</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 10,820</u></b>

Contingent liabilities and commitments (Note 12 and 13)

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

Approved by the Board:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Josie Weninger  
Chairperson of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John McKee  
Chairperson of the Finance Committee

# Aurora College

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND EQUITY

for the year ended June 30, 2007

(in thousands )

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>		
Project income		
Methane hydrate research project (Note 9)	\$32,450	\$ -
Territorial government	2,818	2,431
Other	2,970	3,161
Federal government	1,956	311
Tuition fees	1,985	2,019
Room and board	807	812
Interest income	628	260
Other	<u>848</u>	<u>714</u>
	<b><u>44,462</u></b>	<b><u>9,708</u></b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
Contract services	34,875	1,661
Compensation and benefits	23,208	20,581
Building leases	5,801	5,362
Materials and supplies	2,479	2,637
Utilities	2,063	1,665
Professional services	1,876	1,732
Repairs and maintenance	1,442	1,522
Travel and accommodation	1,303	1,269
Fees and payments	1,041	843
Communication, postage and freight	958	888
Amortization of property and equipment	<u>723</u>	<u>581</u>
	<b><u>75,769</u></b>	<b><u>38,741</u></b>
Net loss before government contributions	(31,307)	(29,033)
Government contributions (Note 10)	<u>30,921</u>	<u>29,107</u>
<b>Net income after government contributions</b>	<b>(386)</b>	<b>74</b>
Equity at beginning of year	<u>3,635</u>	<u>3,561</u>
<b>Equity at end of year</b>	<b><u>\$3,249</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,635</u></b>

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



# Aurora College

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended June 30, 2007

(in thousands)

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash receipts from students and projects	\$23,133	\$9,617
Cash receipts from government contributions	28,005	26,921
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(54,467)	(36,833)
Interest received	<u>628</u>	<u>260</u>
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<u>(701)</u>	<u>(35)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property and equipment	<u>(1,053)</u>	<u>(452)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Capital contributions	<u>971</u>	<u>710</u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(783)</b>	223
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>5,991</u>	<u>5,768</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b><u>\$5,208</u></b>	<b><u>\$5,991</u></b>

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

# Aurora College

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2007

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

The Aurora College is established under the *Aurora College Act*. The College is a territorial corporation under the *Financial Administration Act* and is exempt from income taxes.

Aurora 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 for the facilitation and preparation of research activity in the NWT.

### **2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. A summary of significant accounting policies follows:

#### **a) Measurement Uncertainty**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles 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 assumptions to be reasonable. Some of the more significant management estimates relate to the allowance for doubtful accounts and employee future benefits.

#### **b) Property and equipment**

Property and equipment transferred to the College when it was established were recorded at their estimated fair market value. Subsequent acquisitions are recorded at cost. Property and equipment are amortized over their estimated remaining useful lives on a straight-line basis at the

following annual rates:

Mobile equipment	5 - 33.33%
Building additions and renovations	5%
Furniture and equipment	10 - 50%
Leasehold improvements	over the term of the lease

**c) Employee future benefits**

i) Pension benefits

All eligible employees participate in the Public Service Pension 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 Public Service Pension Plan.

ii) Employee severance and removal benefits

Employees are entitled to severance benefits and reimbursement of removal costs, as provided under labour contracts and conditions of employment, based upon years of service. The benefits are paid upon resignation, retirement or death of an employee. The cost of these benefits is accrued as employees render the services necessary to earn them. Termination benefits are also recorded when employees are identified for lay-off. The cost of the benefits has been determined based on management's best estimates using the expected compensation level and employee leave credits.

**d) Government contributions and deferred capital contributions**

Under a contribution agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories (the Government) dated January 25, 1995, the College receives contributions for its operations and capital requirements for the administration and delivery of its adult and post-secondary education programs. Under the terms of this agreement, the College is allowed to retain all surpluses and is responsible for all deficits.

Contributions from the Government are the amounts set out in the Government's Main Estimates, as adjusted by supplementary appropriations, and represent the majority of the funding for the College to cover its expenses. Contributions for operating expenses are recognized on the statement of operations and equity in the College academic year for which it is approved. Contributions for depreciable capital assets are deferred and amortized on the same basis and in the same periods as the underlying capital assets.



#### **e) Government Contributions –services provided without charge**

The Government provides certain services without charge to the College. The estimated value of these services is recorded as government contributions – services provided without charge, and included in the expenses.

#### **f) Project income and deferred project income**

The College provides education and research services to outside parties through contractual arrangements. Payments received under these contracts for which the development and delivery of projects is not completed are recorded as deferred project income until completion.

#### **g) Contract services**

Contract services are acquired by the College through contractual arrangements. They include printing services, software development, food service contracts, instruction contracts, leases and rental agreements. These amounts are charged as expenses in the year the services are rendered.

#### **h) 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.

### **3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

The College's cash balances are pooled with the Government's surplus cash and are invested in a diversified portfolio of high-grade short term income producing assets. The cash can be withdrawn from the bank accounts at any time and is not restricted by maturity dates on investments made by the Government. The Department of Finance approves the eligible classes of securities, categories of issuers, limits and terms. All instruments, depending on their investment class, are rated R-2 High or better by the Dominion Bond Rating Service Ltd. The College's average annual investment yield for the year ended June 30, 2007 was 4.083% (2006 – 2.994%).

#### 4. NET ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	<u>2007</u>			<u>2006</u>
	( in thousands )			
	<u>Accounts Receivable</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
Project income				
Government	\$278	\$40	\$238	\$189
Methane hydrate research project	20,477	-	20,477	-
Other	2,835	56	2,779	974
Students	251	148	103	39
Advances	8	-	8	4
	<u>\$23,849</u>	<u>\$ 244</u>	<u>\$23,605</u>	<u>\$ 1,206</u>

All receivables are currently due and the fair value of these receivables approximates their carrying value.

#### 5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	<u>2007</u>			<u>2006</u>
	( in thousands )			
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Mobile equipment	\$3,350	\$1,472	\$1,878	\$1,393
Building additions and renovations	1,991	946	1,045	1,145
Furniture and equipment	1,327	1,058	269	311
Leasehold improvements	1760	1,287	473	486
	<u>\$8,428</u>	<u>\$4,763</u>	<u>\$3,665</u>	<u>\$3,335</u>

#### 6. EMPLOYEE FUTURE BENEFITS

##### i) Pension Benefits

The College and all eligible employees contribute to the Public Service Pension Plan. This pension plan provides benefits based on years of service and average earnings at retirement. The benefits are fully indexed to the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

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

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	(in thousands)	
College's contributions	\$2,025	\$1,680
Employees' contributions	935	767

**ii) Severance and Removal Benefits**

The College provides severance benefits to its employees based on years of service and final salary. The College also provides removal assistance to eligible employees, as provided under labour contracts. This benefit plan is not pre-funded and thus has no assets, resulting in a plan deficit equal to the accrued benefit obligation. Future benefits will be paid out of future appropriations.

Information about the plan, measured as at the balance sheet date, is as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	(in thousands)	
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	\$ 1,110	\$1,094
Cost for the year	98	187
Benefits paid during the year	<u>(29)</u>	<u>(171)</u>
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	<u>\$1,179</u>	<u>\$1,110</u>
Short-term portion	\$ 295	\$ 277
Long-term portion	<u>884</u>	<u>833</u>
Total accrued benefit obligations	<u>\$1,179</u>	<u>\$1,110</u>

**7. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Under collective agreements, the College is required annually to make available a specific amount of funding, against which approved instructor professional development expenses are charged. The balance represents the accumulated unspent amount of the College's obligation to instructors.



## 8. EQUITY

The equity balance includes the net book value of 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 equity:

Appropriated equity:	<u>(in thousands)</u>				Balance, ending June 30 2007
	Balance, opening July 1, 2006	Net Results	Appropriated	Used in Operations	
a) Program delivery	\$ 117	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117
b) Research & development	48	-	9	(46)	11
c) HEO replacement & maintenance	228	-	46	-	274
d) Restricted donations	<u>23</u>	-	<u>24</u>	<u>(13)</u>	<u>34</u>
	<u>416</u>	-	<u>79</u>	<u>(59)</u>	<u>436</u>
<b>Unappropriated equity</b>	<u>3,219</u>	<u>(386)</u>	<u>(79)</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>2,813</u>
<b>Total equity</b>	<u><b>\$3,635</b></u>	<u><b>\$(386)</b></u>	<u><b>\$ -</b></u>	<u><b>\$ -</b></u>	<u><b>\$3,249</b></u>

### a) Appropriated for 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.

### b) Appropriated for 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.

### c) Appropriated for 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.

**d) 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.

**9. PROJECT INCOME – METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH PROJECT**

In October 2006, the College entered into a three year agreement with Imperial Oil Resources Ltd and Japan Oil, Gas and National Metals Corporation (JOGMEC) to identify ways to extract natural gas from hydrates frozen within the Arctic permafrost and to evaluate possible methods of exploration and extraction.

JOGMEC is the lead proponent of the research project and is responsible for all costs associated with the project. The College also entered into a contract operating agreement with JOGMEC to act as the operator of the project on behalf of JOGMEC. Under the terms of the contract operating agreement, the College is responsible for the awarding of all contracts and the approval of all payment to contractors hired under the research project. The College is paid a fixed fee for its services as the project operator.

During the current year, the College incurred \$32,744,000 in contract services expenses and other expenses and accounted for \$32,744,000 in revenues.

**10. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	( in thousands )	
Operating contributions	\$28,041	\$26,799
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	490	225
Services provided without charge (Note 11)	<u>2,390</u>	<u>2,083</u>
	<u><b>\$30,921</b></u>	<u><b>\$29,107</b></u>

**11. RELATED PARTIES**

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

**Expenses**

Under the terms of administrative agreements, the Government charges for certain support services provided to the College. The College reimbursed the Government \$1,881,067 (2006 - \$1,450,916) for facility operating and utility costs, employee benefits and other expenses recorded in these statements.

**Services Provided Without Charge**

Additional services provided by the Government without charge to the College include payroll processing, insurance and risk management, legal counsel, construction management, records storage, computer operations, asset disposal, project management, and translation services. These services would have cost the College an estimated \$146,000 (2006 - \$295,000). The estimated charge is based on carrying 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 \$2,244,000 (2006 - \$1,788,000). The Government’s amortization expense for these assets has been used as the basis for this estimate.

These services provided without charge are included in:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
	( in thousands )	
Contract services	\$ 146	\$ 295
Building leases	<u>2,244</u>	<u>1,788</u>
	<u>\$2,390</u>	<u>\$2,083</u>

**12. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

There is one outstanding claim against Aurora College which is an allegation of discrimination from a former student. The likelihood of this claim is not determinable and an amount cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.



### 13. 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:

( in thousands )

2008	2,407
2009	1,201
2010	905
2011	863
2012	862
Thereafter	5,111
	<u>\$11,349</u>

Furthermore, the College hired a project manager for the Methane hydrates research project. The total fee payable to the project manager is \$2,280,000 in 2007/08.

### 14. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain 2006 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.





CASCADE  
GRAPHICS