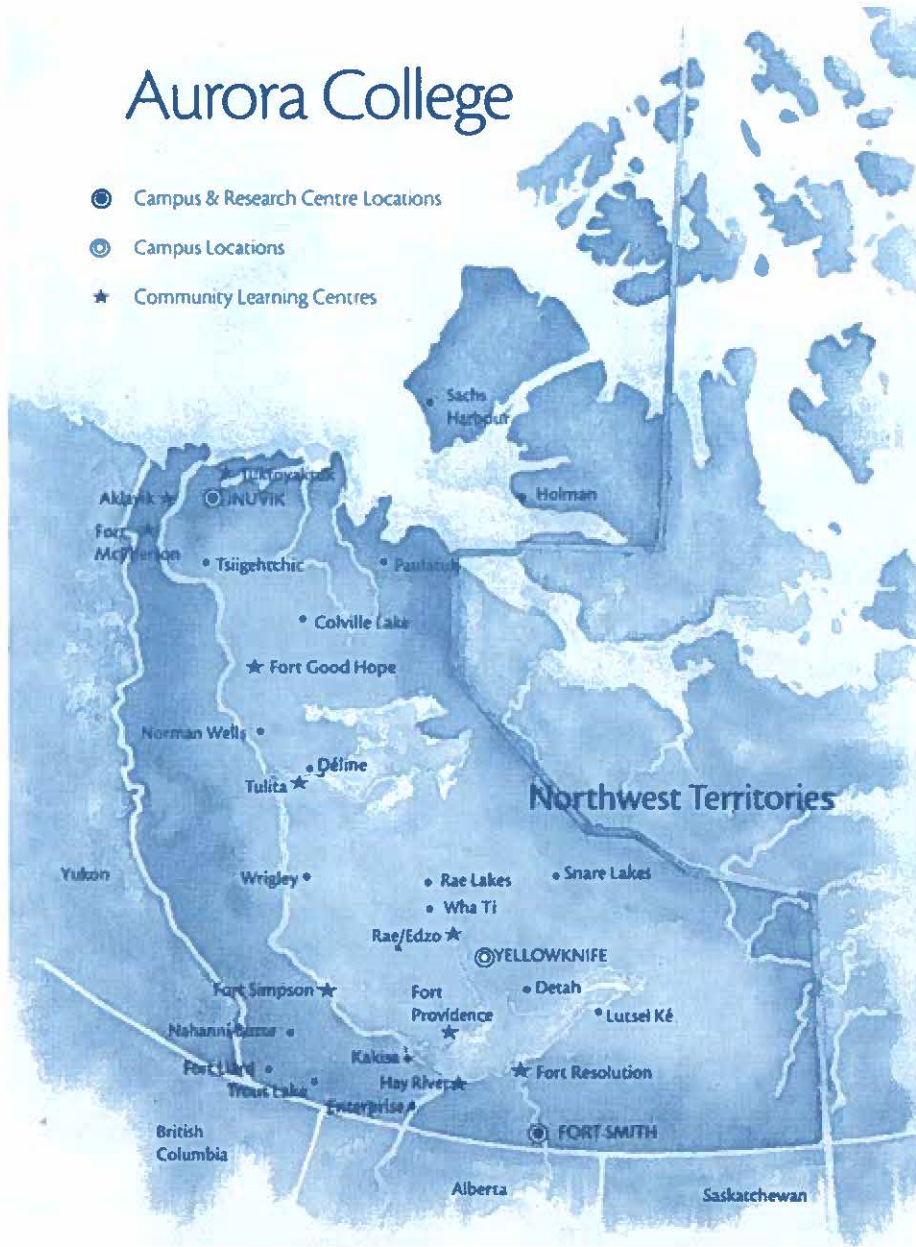


Aurora College Annual Report 1997/1998

Aurora College

- Campus & Research Centre Locations
- Campus Locations
- ★ Community Learning Centres



Building on Our Strengths

The 1997-98 fiscal year was a time of renewal and growth at Aurora College. The Western Arctic's college system has moved into a new phase of its existence we are an entrepreneurial organization that works with both private and public sectors to secure training partnerships to meet our clients' needs.

But more than that, we are also repositioning ourselves to be a more flexible and responsive organization, able to adapt to the major changes that are taking place in the North.

Among these changes are rapidly emerging community authorities, regional authorities and aboriginal governments. These groups will be increasingly important as the creation of two territories approaches. Each will have specific objectives of their own, and it will be up to Aurora College to ensure they can achieve them.

In addition to these new organizations, it is still unknown what final form the government of the western territory will take. In this atmosphere, it will be up to the college to be ready to adapt and prepare for new partners, and new challenges.

To reach this state of readiness, the College is implementing a number of initiatives outlined in our 1995-2000 corporate plan, *A Blueprint for the Future*. The plan sets the college on the road toward university college status. We are working to upgrade instructor qualifications and credentials, and to enhance our university partnerships in selected programs, such as Teacher Education and Management Studies.

By improving our faculty and our program offerings, we will be better positioned to serve the changing needs of the Western Arctic for years to come.

Letter of Transmittal

*The Honourable Charles Dent, Minister,
Education, Culture and Employment*

The Aurora College Board of Governors has worked hard this past year to guide the college through a period of regrouping and growth. With careful plans developed by College administration, the Board has sought to guide these developments in a careful manner to ensure service quality maintains its high standards, and that changes are implemented to the full benefit of our clients and partners.

We believe these efforts have been successful, and have led to a number of new programs, new facilities and new initiatives. Aiding our efforts has been stabilization in government funding after several years of restraint, and increasingly successful partnerships with the private sector.

What has happened in the past year represents a major change in the way the Aurora College system works. We are no longer an agency entirely funded by government monies, but rather a college which actively seeks alternative sources of funding through entrepreneurial practices.

We have accomplished this in a remarkably short time, and much credit is due to College administration and staff, who took up the challenge of reformation with intelligence and confidence.

It is this new college system which will continue to provide top quality training to Northerners no matter what direction our future evolution takes us. Coming together with like-minded organizations in the coming years will ensure we are ready for whatever needs arise on the road head.

Sincerely,
Danny Yakeleya
Chairperson



Board of Governors Chairperson Danny Yakeleya, second from left, congratulates a graduate at Yellowknife Campus during the 1998 Graduation Ceremonies. With him are Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Charles Dent and Yellowknife Chair of Academic Programs, Deb Simpson.

President's Report

The 1997-98 academic year was one of growth and consolidation at Aurora College. We have put new systems into place that support the new structure and operating principles that the college has adopted following several years of fiscal restraint. These new principles, which include more partnerships with the private sector, closer links with communities and regional authorities and a commitment to use new technologies to increase access to our programs, will keep Aurora College current with the needs of its clients.

With fiscal restraint and consolidation behind us, the College administration settled into the business of looking to the future, expanding and updating our programming and improving our facilities.

The College has continued to work with the mining industry to develop new programs. This has yielded a number of successful programs, including the Mine Trades Access Program, which has resulted in 11 graduates being hired by BHP Diamonds.

We have designed a number of programs to meet the ongoing training needs of these mines, including the Pre-Technology Program, an Electronic Engineering Technology Program, a Mine Trades Access Program, and a Pre-trades Program. We have also looked at existing programs to enhance mine-related aspects. This is particularly true in the case of trades training.

The new Electronic Engineering Technology Program will be delivered starting this fall at Yellowknife Campus. This program can lead to substantial new programming opportunities, including avionics and biomedical. With minor course adjustments, specializations in engineering fields such as computer engineering technology and networking technology can be offered in the future.

Forestry is another industry that has experienced growth in recent years. New sawmills are operating in the southern N.W.T., and more organizations require people with both harvesting skills and knowledge of forestry management. This led us to create a Forestry Worker Cer-

tificate Program to train harvesters and other mill employees, and to create a forestry specialization within our Natural Resources Technology Program (NRTP).



Aurora College President Chuck Parker (right) helps Board of Governors Vice-Chair JoAnne Deneron award an honorary diploma in Aboriginal Language Teacher Education to Mrs. Annie Buggins of the Hay River Dene Reserve.

The diploma program will train people in forest management techniques.

NRTP is also being refined to address land management in claimant areas. These courses are currently in development, and are designed to provide trained staff for claimant groups as they begin to take greater control of the resource and wildlife management in claimant territories.

In addition to programming, we have turned our attention to improving our facilities, in order to provide a constantly improving learning environment for our students. Recent efforts in this direction include new learning centres in Fort Providence and Hay River, as well as a new campus in Yellowknife. In addition, the Breynat Hall student residence in Fort Smith was upgraded to include kitchenette units, and additional housing units are planned for future construction.

Ongoing initiatives include the Government of the NWT's efforts to have more services and programs delivered at the community level. This has created a need for people trained in a variety of community development areas, including municipal management, program delivery,

wellness and business management. To address this need, Aurora College will be working with various partners to develop the Community Development Certificate Program and expect to offer modules of the program at the Aurora Campus.

Funding

Beginning with the coming fiscal year, the GNWT has stated there will be no funding reductions for the foreseeable future. This has allowed us to stabilize program and services funding, as well as staffing and other administrative functions. We can also take a long-term approach to spending and planning.

Enrolment Trends

Aurora College enjoyed a seven percent increase in enrolments for the 1997-98 academic year.

An initial analysis of enrolment trends reveals that our full-time enrolment base remains strong. Third party contracted training projects also increased from the previous year's activity levels.

In contrast to this growth, we are continuing to experience limited growth for part-time programming such as GNWT Staff Training. A planning document is currently in development to explore ways of enhancing services in these areas. We are also receiving positive feedback from some government departments to indicate that their funding levels are such that they can once again begin to invest in staff development.

Facility Development

Facility development has received a lot of attention over the past several fiscal years, as the Board and administration realized many of our buildings were beyond their useful life span.

Among the projects recently completed is the new site of Yellowknife Campus. Located at the Northern United Place on Franklin Avenue, the convenient downtown location houses three floors of administrative, classroom and laboratory space. The bright, modern facility has proved popular with students, staff and

community members, many of whom gathered at the grand opening ceremonies held last March.

In Hay River, construction is completed on the new four classroom community learning centre building located in the community's downtown core. Staff and students in Hay River are pleased with the facility which includes a computer lab, traditional knowledge workspace and offices.

The Fort Providence community learning centre is complete. An official opening of the school renovation and the learning centre is planned for early this fall.

The college has recently completed a report on building a new campus building in Inuvik. The report recommends a Public Private Partnership approach to building the new complex, whereby private contractors would build and own the new facility, while the College would lease the structure over the long term. College administration has determined that the best approach to a new campus in Inuvik is to construct a new building on the present site, while maintaining the existing gymnasium complex for classroom space and recreational use.

The College has also been approved to use the P3 funding approach to replace family housing at Thebacha Campus. A new 25-unit building, made up of three and four bedroom row houses is currently in the planning stages. It is expected that construction of these units will begin in the spring of 1999.



Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith.

The Future

Overall, the picture for our operating climate is positive. We have a growing economy and government spending is stable. We have emerging regional authorities and industries to work with, and a young population from which to recruit students.

Future plans include the continuing maturation of our programs to the point where we offer several baccalaureate degrees. Programs targeted for this stream include Teacher Education, Management Studies, Social Work, Natural Resources Technology and Northern Nursing. This is consistent with our goal to eventually gain university college status.

The College is also taking a long-term approach to staffing issues with the establishment of a Human Resources Strategy. The strategy will address staff development issues and hiring practices.

In addition, senior administration is working with the Vice-President/Operations to establish a transition plan for his eventual move to the President's position on January 1, 1999. The Vice-President has ably taken over large areas of presidential responsibility, including campus operations, the Public Affairs Office, and the Department of Policy and Programs. The transfer of the Finance and Administration Section is underway. Appropriate training opportunities have been built into the transition plan, ensuring a smooth takeover of responsibilities. Mr. Maurice Evans will assume the position of President early in the new year.

As the future of the Western Arctic is still in transition, we must remain flexible in the coming years to adapt to major changes and new programming requirements. The systems we have put in place over the past three years will facilitate this flexibility, and allow us to remain responsive to client and partner needs.

Board of Governors

Aurora College has one of the most active and informed Boards in the N.W.T. The College's Board of Governors demonstrates clear leadership in the direction it establishes for the College, but also maintains an important grass roots connection to the people we serve through the Western Arctic.

By undertaking regular Board development workshops, members ensure they are up-to-date on current issues and prepared to make knowledgeable decisions on how to address the needs of our clients.

Board members are regional representatives who bring the issues of their regions to the Board of Governors. This allows ongoing consultation which allows the College to keep in touch with how the regions see their education developing, and how the College can play a positive role in that development.

This ongoing consultation role is augmented by regional visits, during which Board members and administration tour communities to meet directly with local leaders. This year's trip included a road tour through the Sahtu region by the Chairperson, accompanied by the President, the Director of Aurora Campus, and Aurora Campus' Director of Extensions. The trip resulted in a tour of College facilities in the region and meetings with students at various locations. These trips allow the Board to maintain a close link with our clients in community loca-

tions.

As important as it is to keep in touch locally, the Board must also take a larger view of college issues. One vehicle that helps accomplish this is the Northern Colleges Meeting, an annual gathering of board members and administrative staff from colleges across Canada's Northern regions.

Aurora College hosted this year's Northern Colleges Meeting in Yellowknife. Representatives from colleges in Newfoundland, northern Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, BC, Nunavut and the Yukon attended the event. Representatives addressed a number of issues relevant to Northern colleges, including telecommunications infrastructure for remote regions, and the formation of the University of the Arctic.

As usual, Board members attended convocation ceremonies at each Campus, giving them an opportunity to see the end result of the College's work. They also took part in a number of ceremonial functions, such as the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Hay River Learning Centre.

These tasks take place above the regular guidance provided by Board members at regular and committee meetings. Through close work with staff and administration, Board members ensure the directions taken by the College keep the interests of the regions and clients in mind.



The Aurora College Board of Governors, back, left to right: Maurice Evans (Vice-President/Operations), Leon Lafferty (Yellowknife - North Slave), Earl Jacobson (Fort Smith Region), JoAnne Deneron (Fort Smith Region), Bob Simpson (Inuvik Region), President Chuck Parker. Front, left to right: Cynthia Joyce (Yellowknife - North Slave), Chairperson Danny Yakeleya (Inuvik Region), Nancy Norn-Lennie (student representative) and Liz Pope (staff representative, Fort Smith Region).

Program Achievements

At the heart of every educational institution is a set of innovative and effective training programs that provide graduates with job and career opportunities. This is true of Aurora College as well, and we have worked to ensure our programs support the continued growth and development of the Western Arctic and N.W.T. labour force.

Among the mechanisms we use to maintain quality programming are regular evaluations by outside agencies, internal reviews, transfer and articulation agreements, and program development.

Internal and external reviews allow us to measure the current effectiveness of specific programs, decide whether programs are meeting current training needs, and revise curricula.

Transfer and articulation agreements are set up with other educational institutions to allow our students to transfer some or all of their credits toward other programs. Some programs have course-by-course transfer agreements, while others such as Management Studies and Teacher Education, constitute the first two years of three- or four-year degree programs. These agreements open an array of new learning opportunities for our students.

Program Development

Program development is one of the College's most active areas. The Program Development Officer works with business, industry and government to identify new training needs and address these needs through new program offerings or revisions of current programs.

The 1997-98 academic year saw major progress in the development of new programs to address emerging sectors of the NWT's economy, including forestry, mining and technological occupations.

Among the new programs starting in the 1998-99 academic years is Electronics Engineering Technology. This program, offered in partnership with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton, will not only train our students in the rapidly growing fields of electronics technology, avionics and biomedical, but will also allow us to expand our program of-

ferings into a number of new technological fields.

With the addition of one new course, the EET program can be modified to offer Computer Networking and Computer Engineering. These new program offerings will help Northerners enter professional level jobs in these growing fields.

In keeping with the GNWT's focus on preparing communities for program and service delivery, the College is currently working on a Community Development Program, which would build expertise in a number of areas, such as business management, community leadership, wellness and needs assessments.

In order to address the growing need for trained forestry workers in the North, new concentrations in Forestry and Forestry Management have been developed for our Natural Resources Technology Program. These concentrations will prepare people for employment in either forest harvesting or forest resource management.

In addition to developing new programs, the College has continued its policy of examining current programs to evaluate them in context with the changing job market. Our most recent evaluation was of the Management Studies Program. The evaluation resulted in an action plan that would assist this flagship program in meeting a variety of new goals, including new delivery formats, new linkages with other programs, and further articulation agreements with our academic partners. This action plan will be implemented in the coming academic year.

Another change the Management Studies Program underwent in the past year was the addition of a co-operative education element to the program. For the first time, Management Studies students had the opportunity to work in actual businesses as part of their class work, providing them with valuable on-the-job experience prior to graduation. This addition proved popular not only with our students, but with Northern business operators, who had a chance to preview potential new employees. Other College programs are currently being examined to assess their suitability for co-operative streams.

A major initiative is being undertaken to

expand our relationship with the mining industry. With several projects already underway with the mining industry, we hope to offer further programming in this area through the proposed Mine Training Plan, which will be implemented in conjunction with the Mine Training Committee and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Another GNWT agreement will see Aurora College offer the Advanced Nursing Skills Education Program at Yellowknife Campus. Formerly offered by the Department of Health and Social Services, the College will offer this program for the first time in the 1998-99 academic year. It provides ad-

vanced nursing skills beyond those offered in our two-year Northern Nursing Program.

The Observer/Communicator program will double the amount of training delivered in the coming year. With the construction of Community Aerodrome Radio Stations at northern airports continuing, the training demand for this program is expected to further increase in coming years.

As always, the efforts we undertake in program development are aimed at improving our graduates' employability, and ensuring we are meeting the needs of our clients and partners.



The first graduating class of the Mine Trades Access Program celebrate their success with their instructors.

Partnerships

Partnerships

Academic services have changed dramatically over the past ten years, and Aurora College is not immune to these changes. Where once educational institutions laboured in relative isolation, the past decade has brought the College, government and industry together in a spirit of co-operation and resource sharing.

Aurora College has been part of this national trend, and partnerships now form a core part of our corporate culture. From transfer agreements to combined delivery to joint funding arrangements, these partnerships allow the college to deliver more programs in more locations, and open new avenues of opportunity for our students.

Partnership Programming Initiatives

One of our most successful partnerships in the area of technological training has been with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). This innovative school with a national reputation for excellence has teamed up with Aurora College to develop and deliver our Pre-Technology Program, a foundation course designed to provide learners with entry level skills in a number of trades and technological areas.

The College's relationship with NAIT took a major step forward this year with the signing of a co-operation agreement between our institutions.

The agreement outlines a commitment on the part of NAIT and Aurora College to work together to develop more programs. One of the first results of this partnership is the Electronic Engineering Technology Program, which will have a first-year intake at Yellowknife Campus this fall. Under the agreement with NAIT, Aurora College students take their first year of classes with Aurora College, and have guaranteed placement in the second year program at NAIT.

Annette Quiring flashes a big smile after receiving her bachelors' degree in Business Administration from Athabasca University (AU). The program is a partnership between AU and Aurora College.

MACA is involved with Aurora Campus in a number of areas. Thanks to their partnership, the Campus has a Recreation Trainer position, which they cost-share with MACA, while the department also provides funding for the Community Lands Administration Certificate Program.

Our longstanding partnership with the University of Saskatchewan has also evolved this year. Our Teacher Education Program has been fully transferable to U of S for many years, but we will now be offering third-year courses toward a baccalaureate degree in education. The result of this is that we now offer a three-year diploma program. An agreement for the delivery of fourth year courses in the N.W.T. is currently being negotiated.

Aurora College has also signed an agreement with the Mine Training Committee to establish training programs to support the development of a Northern workforce for the mines that are starting up in several N.W.T. locations.



Agreements have been struck with the Department of Transportation to open training opportunities in a number of areas, including an enhancement of the Observer/Communicator Program. Recent improvements include new instrumentation panels for training simulators for the new Community Airport Radio Systems, which are replacing flight service stations in smaller airports throughout the N.W.T. As this conversion takes place, there will be a rising demand in training. Activity for the coming year will double over previous years, and we expect this trend to continue for the next several years.

The Department of Transportation is also working with the College in other fields, including construction training and Airports Maintenance and Management. These last two programs have been specifically designed to ensure trained airport staff are available within the N.W.T.

The College is also working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Vancouver Community College, and the diamond industry to establish secondary diamond industry training. This program will train workers in the polishing, sorting and valuation of diamonds.

Students

Like any educational institution, Aurora College exists for our students. We provide many services beyond the expected delivery of programs, including counseling, academic planning, career development and the provision of housing. These services are part of our ongoing commitment to help students succeed in any way we can. The interests of students are represented

Activity Highlights

Students at Yellowknife Campus now have a smoothly functioning Student Association with a retail outlet located in the entrance foyer of the new Campus building. This outlet allows the Student Association to sell school supplies, commemorative



Proud nursing graduates from the Northern Nursing Program at Yellowknife Campus.

at each Campus by Student Associations. These bodies provide student governance, and deliver a number of important services including running canteens, school supply stores, commemorative clothing and student identification cards. Student associations also function as advocacy groups, highlighting student issues with Campus administration and the Board of Governors.

In addition to their schoolwork, many of our students become involved in the community in a number of positive ways. Through their volunteer work, they run sports teams, host family dances and raise money for charities. These activities contribute to their overall learning experience.

items and articles of clothing. This revenue can then be used to deliver further services to students.

Students at Thebacha Campus now see their student newspaper published in tabloid format. The Eagle has been a fixture at the campus for over a decade, but was previously published by photocopying legal sized paper. The paper is now professionally printed, and serves the campus population even better.

Thebacha Campus students staying at Breynat Hall were pleased by the addition of kitchenette units. The units were built to provide an alternative to the cafeteria facilities at Thebacha Campus. The kitch-

enettes were well received by all students, and the cafeteria has been converted to a teaching facility for the Pre-Employment Cooking Program.

Recreation Leaders students at Aurora Campus got a bit of practical experience and the Town of Inuvik gained a sheet of ice for the curling rink at the new Midnight Sun Recreation Centre. Students performed this job to gain experience in their field. This is an excellent example of how volunteerism can complement educational experiences.

Students and staff in the Social Work Program at Aurora Campus have become involved in developing a Territorial Association of Social Workers, which would operate like existing provincial groups in cooperation with the national association. The development of such an organization is seen as being instrumental to the positive promotion of the Social Work profession in the North.

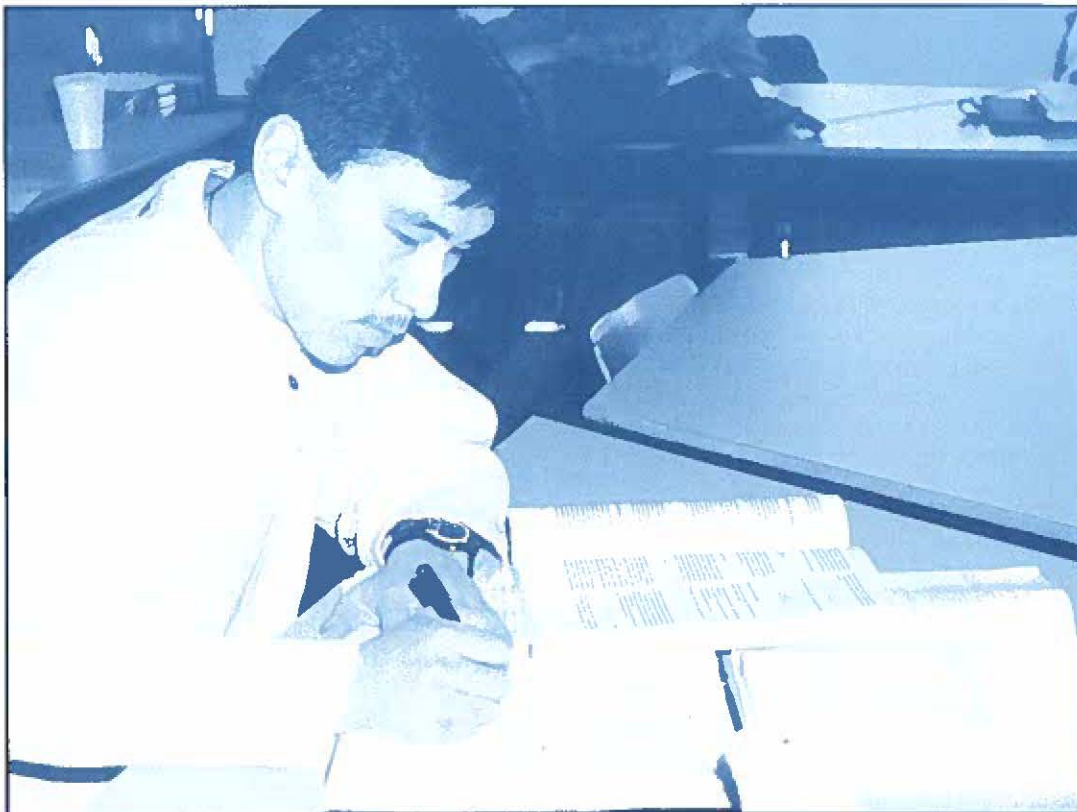
Recreation Leaders students at Aurora Campus are once again fulfilling a vital volunteer role in Inuvik. Some are working with the newly opened student drop-

in centre, while others are involved in the new recreation centre or with Campus Recreation.

Aurora Campus students in the Teacher Education Program spent five days in Yellowknife on orientation. The students visited schools, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and the Legislative Assembly building. They also attended a workshop on the Code of Ethics of the teaching profession.

Students at the Tulita Community Learning Centre hosted a Community Coffee Break, where community members were invited into the learning centre to learn more about the college and what it has to offer. The students hope to tie this experience into the community newsletter, which they publish.

Students at Thebacha Campus successfully assembled the first college-wide Aurora College yearbook to be published in the past 10 years. The students gathered prepared material from all other campuses and assembled it into one attractive package for publication.



Aurora Research Institute

The Aurora Research Institute (ARI), a division of Aurora College, serves as the research arm to enhance the incorporation of research and indigenous knowledge into educational and other programs. The Aurora Research Institute vision is to work with all interests in the western NWT to improve opportunities for the residents. Our mission is to promote the further development of communities within the western NWT by advancing northern knowledge, by creating partnerships and by providing leadership and programs which promote scientific research to meet community needs.

The Aurora Research Institute provides administrative and logistical support to both resident and nonresident scientists. These services are provided through the Inuvik Research Centre in Inuvik, the South Slave Research Centre in Fort Smith and the Industrial Research Assistance Program in Yellowknife. ARI is responsible for licensing and coordinating research in accordance with the *NWT Scientist Act*. In 1997 there were 54 research licenses issued by ARI.

As part of their mandate, ARI promotes public awareness of the importance of science and technology and indigenous knowledge in the North. Through the Innovators in the Schools Program, ARI staff have been involved with N.W.T. schools, through Science Fairs, Career Days, classroom presentations and other related activities. The staff host activities for National Science & Technology Week each year and invite many local scientists to share their expertise with schools and the public throughout the western Northwest Territories.

ARI strives to make scientific and traditional knowledge available to people of the NWT. The Institute maintains a 10,000 volume scientific reference library for use by members of the public and College students. Many of the books and journals focus on northern research and issues. The 1996/97 Compendium of Research has recently been completed to be distributed throughout the North. This is a compilation of summaries of all research projects licensed in the western NWT and includes wildlife, archaeology, fisheries and all other fields of study.

Canadian Circumpolar Institute at the University of Alberta this past year. The intent is to work collaboratively on projects and research through this Northern focused division of the University. A memorandum of understanding was also established with CANMET Energy Technology Centre. Collaborative work with CANMET has been ongoing for the past few years and is intended to continue to assist in the development and testing of new energy systems and environmentally sound building construction.

ARI Contract Services

The following is a list of some of the contract services that were provided by the various programs of the Aurora Research Institute staff.

- ***Inuvialuit History & Culture Document***

The Manager of Scientific Services was contracted to complete the development of a teacher's resource document for Grades 1-6 that details the history, culture and wildlife of the Inuvialuit.

- ***Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Training Program***

Under the direction of a NWT wide steering committee, a training and skills needs assessment for Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) was completed. A questionnaire was circulated to 31 CPNP program workers, five Nutrition specialists and three Health Program Consultants. The results of the questionnaire were used to establish and prioritize competencies necessary for CPNP project worker training.

- ***Traditional Knowledge Database - North Slope***

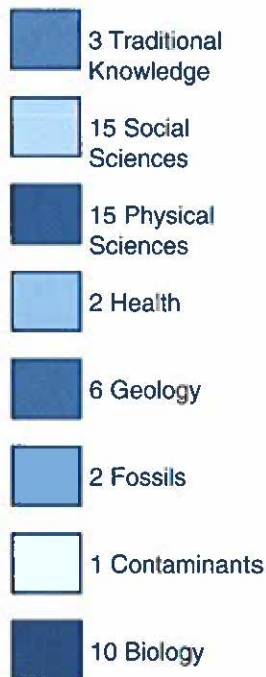
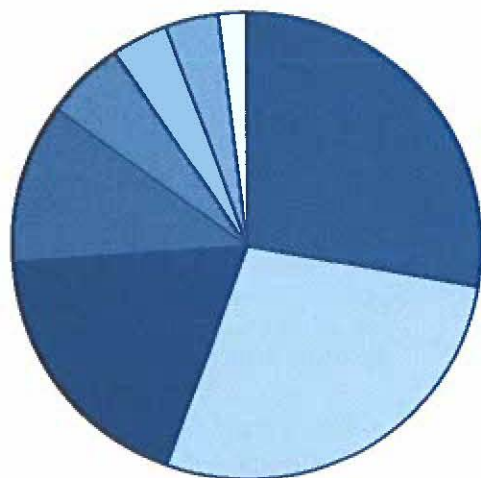
Research was done to assess the current information sources available dealing with traditional knowledge for the North Slope region. A database of all traditional knowledge sources was developed.

- ***Workshops***

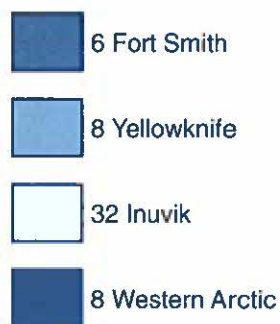
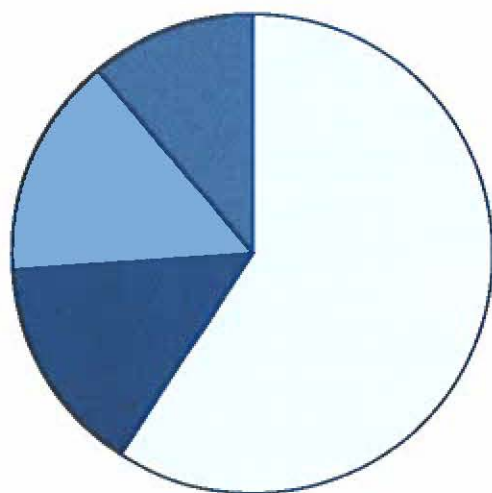
ARI continues to have a strong community service focus. Quality Improvement workshops were conducted by ARI staff in Yellowknife, and the Director completed

The licenses issued for each field of study and by region are as follows:

Field of Study



Region(s)



a Strategic Planning Exercise for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. These projects reflect ARI's wide-ranging approach to scientific research. From community partners to international agencies, ARI works with a variety of organizations to ensure Northerners have access to the best science information and technology as well as training in various research techniques. ARI continues to support researchers through funds provided by our Research Assistant Support Program and Research Fellowship Program.

The Inuvik Research Centre

Established 30 years ago to assist scientists conducting research in Canada's northern regions, the Inuvik Research Centre (IRC) houses the ARI Head Office, as well as a research library and large laboratory facilities. The IRC staff continues to provide logistical support for researchers and instructors as well as a range of scientific services to communities in the Inuvik region and beyond.

Contract Services

The Inuvik Research Centre co-operates with community groups and agencies on various projects. The following are examples of some completed or initiated over the past year.

- ***Inuvik Sewage Lagoon Study***

This was a joint effort with DIAND, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Inuvik HTC, and the Town of Inuvik to study the impact sewage effluent is having on the Mackenzie River's water quality and wildlife. A report on the research will be published.

- ***Gwich'in Traditional Ecological Knowledge Project***

The revision and editing of the Gwich'in Ecological Knowledge document was a sub-contract from Gwich'in Geographics. The resulting book entitled "Gwich'in Words About the Land" was published in the fall of 1997.

- ***Breeding Bird Survey, Ivvavik National Park***

This was a project completed for Parks Canada with data sent also to the Canadian Wildlife Service.



The Research Advisory Council assists the ARI Staff in setting direction for research and community consultations. From left to right: Bob Simpson, Barney Masuzumi, Chairperson Danny Yakeleya, JoAnne Deneron, ARI Director Dr. David Malcolm, Rudy Cockney and Niall Fitzgerald.

- ***Kitgaaryuit Vegetation Survey***

The collection of plant specimens for a vegetation survey from an old Inuvialuit whaling village was work requested by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation for the Kitgaaryuit National Historical Site.

- ***Community Development Program***

Work on the design of a community development program for the college involved a survey for community development workers, leaders and professionals with data analysis and preparation of a report entitled "A Survey and Discussion of Community Development Training Needs in the Western Northwest Territories".

- ***Aklavik Sewage Discharge System***

Information from a literature review and sampling of lakes downstream of the sewage lagoon were assembled to produce a report entitled "The History, Operation and Performance of the Wetland Sewage Treatment Facility in Aklavik, Northwest Territories".

- ***Student Tracking Project, Aurora Campus***

The Inuvik Research Centre carried out a student tracking project to be used as a model for future graduate database construction. This database was developed for two years to stimulate the development of a college-wide alumni program.

- ***Leadership Training in the Northwest Territories***

This project involved an evaluation of the need for general leadership training in communities and organizations across the NWT

- ***West Kitikmeot - South Slave Region /Literature Search on Water Quality***

This contract involved a search for references for water quality in the WKSS region. This was annotated and included a database developed by the Cold Regions Research Centre in Waterloo, Ontario.

- ***Education and Training Needs in the Beaufort Delta Region***

This report was compiled for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. It highlighted education and training needs identified by various organizations in the Beaufort Delta region.

- ***Aurora Campus Natural Resources Technology Program Development***

Inuvik Research Centre Staff provided assistance with the development of changes to the Aurora Campus NRT program with a focus on regional land claims.

Educational Services

Part of the IRC's mandate is to encourage the development of a northern science culture. Staff made presentations at Career Days at Aurora College. The library is available for use by students of Aurora College and focuses also on use by researchers. Researchers utilizing the facilities of the centre are encouraged to hire local residents as field assistants to further the development of skills in science.

- ***Plain Language Reports***

The Centre has undertaken to provide a series of reports which provide scientific information on various scientific subjects to the general public. These include such titles as *Polar Night*, *Listening for Cosmic Rays*, *Lakes and Waters in the Mackenzie Delta*, *The Northern Lights of Our Sky*. The last two titles are those of publications completed in 1997/98.

- ***Gwich'in Ethnobotany Project***

The purpose of this study is to document Gwich'in use of plants for food and medicine. Field and laboratory work have been undertaken along with consultation with elders and students from communities in the region. Plants have been pressed and mounted with labels in Gwich'in and English, along with scientific names. These will be compiled into kits which will then be distributed to schools in the communities of the region. This work has been done in conjunction with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute.

- **Western Arctic Handbook**

This project proposes the development of a handbook documenting the natural and cultural history of the Western Arctic. RWED has provided funding for the initiation of the project. The Canadian Library Association provided funding for the hiring of a summer student to research various subject areas. This information will then be used by contributors to the handbook. To date the following have been completed - an outline of contents, a list of possible writers, and the hiring of a consultant to develop a funding proposal. Potential funding sources will be approached over the next year.

- **Summer Student Projects**

As part of the educational focus of the Research Centre, funding for the hiring of summer students was obtained from HRDC, ECE, Polar Gas, and the Canadian Library Association.

Library Services

Over the past year we continued to catalogue a backlog of new acquisitions for a total of approximately 1500 books. The library was fortunate to have a part-time volunteer from Frontiers International to assist for the school year. Students from the Aurora Campus Social Work Program have made use of 300 books borrowed from Thebacha Campus which are being housed in the Research Centre Library until 1999. Orientation services continue to be provided to new students and instructors at Aurora Campus.

Partnerships stem to different parts of the library. Parks Canada and the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board assist in the purchasing of journals. Parks Canada is considering housing their reference library at the Research Centre Library. The Canadian Library Association has partially funded the hiring of a summer student for 1997 and 1998 to help with library maintenance and cataloguing.

Research Services

Logistical support is provided as a service to researchers from the north and the south. This provides revenue for the continuation of the service which includes transportation, equipment, accommodation, laboratory facilities and field assistance.

- **Cosmic Ray Monitoring Project**

The Inuvik Research Centre is home to a cosmic ray monitor. It is one of three neutron monitors operating in Canada, and one of many around the world that detect cosmic rays from outer space. The Inuvik Research Centre has been contracted by Bartol Research Institute (University of Delaware) to operate the monitor. Data collected by the cosmic ray monitor provides information on the strength of solar and galactic cosmic rays and disturbances in the solar-terrestrial environment.

- **Data Monitoring**

IRC staff provide assistance in various ongoing studies by monitoring data on such subjects as snow surveys, permafrost, and tree litter.

- **International Research Team Studies Gas Hydrates in the Arctic**

A team of Canadian, Japanese and American scientists began work last February north of Inuvik in the Mackenzie River Delta to carry out a month long study to increase their understanding of natural gas hydrates. An 1,140 metre deep research well was the focus of a co-operative research program between the Japan National Oil Corporation (JNOC) and the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). Other participants included the Japan Petroleum Exploration Company (JAPEX) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The scientists were based at the Inuvik Research Centre where they set up several specialized research laboratories. Inuvik Research Centre offices and other support facilities were also used for the duration of the project.

- **Renewable Energy Technology Project**

A hybrid power system was established on the roof of the Inuvik Research Centre as part of a study conducted under "Photovoltaics For the North". Monitoring of the system was carried out by Research Centre staff. This five year joint research program with CANMET Energy Diversification Research Laboratory (CEDRL) was completed in May 1998. A book communicating the results of this study will be published by CEDRL in the winter of 1998. Partnerships to develop a plain language

report, educational and research projects are being pursued with the Arctic Energy Alliance and private industry. A brochure outlining the system was drafted in the summer of 1997. The final copy will be ready in 1998.

South Slave Research Centre

The South Slave Research Centre (SSRC) was established in 1991 and was founded as a community based initiative to meet research needs of the southern Northwest Territories. It is located on the Thebacha Campus of Aurora College in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. They conduct research on behalf of community groups, provide logistical support for visiting researchers and promote science, technology and traditional knowledge education through the Innovators in the School Program and through other contracts. The South Slave Research Centre co-operates with community groups and agencies on various projects. The following are examples of some completed or initiated over the past year.

• *Forestry Training Manual*

The SSRC conducted the background research to develop a forestry management and harvesting component to Aurora College's Natural Resources Technology Program. The manual provides an ideal foundation upon which to build further courses. This project is a model of how the College's research arm co-operates with the educational delivery arm.

• *Forestry Soils Workshop*

SSRC staff conducted a Forest Soils Workshop in Fort Simpson. With the recent growth in the forest industry, particularly in the Deh Cho and South Slave regions, forestry expertise is becoming a more valuable commodity, and the South Slave Research Centre is becoming a prime source for this expertise.

• *Community Access Program*

One of SSRC's most successful projects was carried over from the previous years. The Community Access Program develops Internet and web programming expertise in high school students from communities throughout the N.W.T. by teaching them to program their own web pages. Once these young people are trained, they return to their communities to act as resource people for community Internet projects.

• *Youth Environmental Corps*

Primarily teaching employment skills to youth in the research industry, this project highlights the efforts that occurred in summer and fall of 1997. Working partners consisted of Metis Local #50 and the Northern Life Museum.

• *Innovators on the WEB*

In conjunction with the Aurora Research Institute, staff of the SSRC visited eight communities in the Inuvik and Sahtu Regions. They demonstrated some Internet web sites to the students and highlighted the web site that had been created for this project. Demonstrations to students were done of computer technologies including a digital camera and web camera. This is an ongoing project and will be continued in schools in other regions.

Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP)

The Industrial Research Assistance Program of the National Research Council has an office based in Yellowknife and works through the Aurora Research Institute and Nunavut Research Institute to fulfill their mandate for the Northwest Territories. This program is geared to assist industry with the research and development of new technologies with a view to stimulating productivity, profitability and international competitiveness. This program provides technical and financial assistance to stimulate innovation in Canadian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. Thirty six projects were approved for financial assistance under IRAP in 1997. Some of the initiatives of this program include:

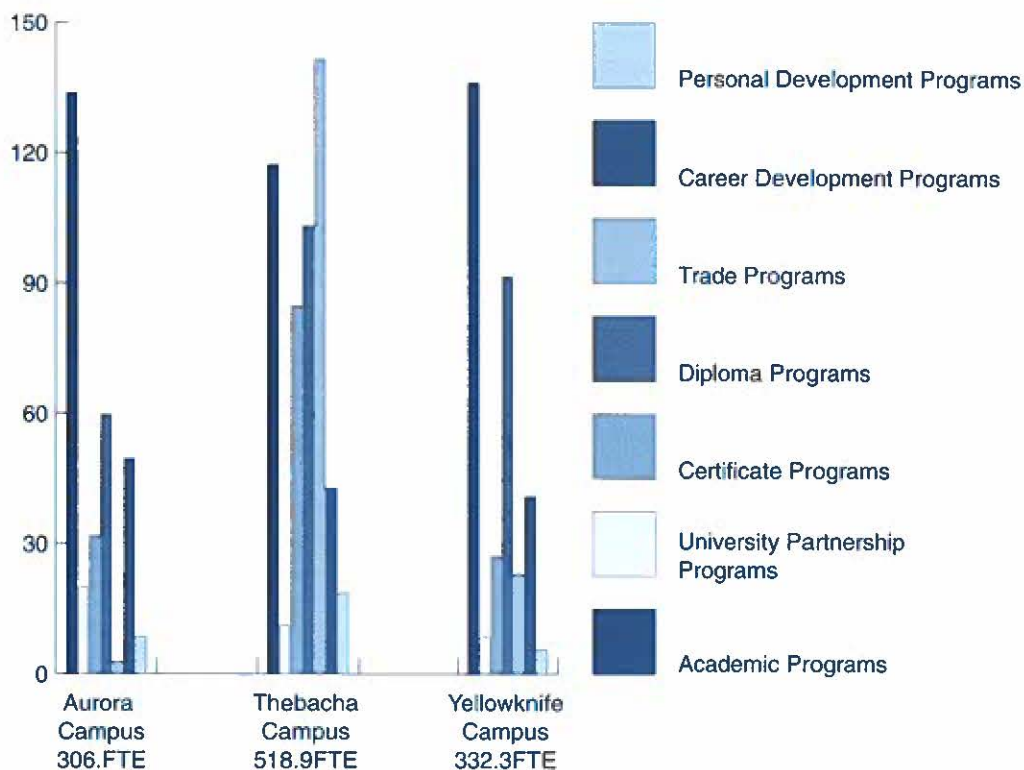
- Assisting in the coordination of the 7th International Conference on Permafrost.
- Manufacture of a portable CO₂ generator.
- Housing Construction project- working with NH - 3000/Energy Wall, a Yellowknife company which has developed a unique wall-panel system for the construction industry in the North. IRAP is assisting with the development and testing of the wall-panel. This work is on-going.
- TNPG - this construction firm located in Iqaluit is the first to experiment with "deconstruction" as a means of waste management. This firm has been able to undertake several deconstruction projects in Nunavut subsequent to the initial project supported by IRAP.

Student Enrolments

Beginning with the 1997/98 academic year, Aurora College used a new definition to calculate full-time equivalencies for part time enrolment. This revised definition, developed by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, identifies full time students as those taking 60 percent or greater of a full course load within the academic year. For most of our programs, this would represent six or more courses. Aurora College had 1085 full-time equivalent students for the 1997/98 academic year.

The 1997/98 enrolment statistics have been calculated using the new definition. Part-time students are converted to full-time equivalents using the following ratios:

Apprentice Trades courses: 4:1
All other courses: 10:1



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 by the Board of Governors. The statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. 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.

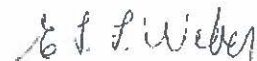
In discharging its responsibility for financial reporting, management maintains and relies on financial and management control systems and practices which are designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded, and proper records are maintained. These controls 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, who 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.



Chuck Parker
President



Edith Weber
Bursar/Chief Financial Officer

Fort Smith, Canada
September 4, 1998



AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment
Government of the Northwest Territories

I have audited the balance sheet of the Aurora College as at June 30, 1998 and the statements of operations and equity and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the College's management. My responsibility is to express an audit opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with 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, 1998 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with 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 and 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 *Public Colleges Act* and regulations and bylaws of the College

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dmyoung', written over a large, stylized blue checkmark.

Donald M. Young, FCA
Assistant Auditor General
for the Auditor General of Canada

Ottawa, Canada
4 September 1998


Balance Sheet


as at June 30, 1998
(thousands of dollars)

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash	\$705	\$2,641
Accounts receivable (note 3)	1,720	1,039
Prepaid expenses	159	162
Capital assets (note 4)	3,238	1,011
	<u>\$5,822</u>	<u>\$4,853</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$1,408	\$903
Due to the Government of the Northwest Territories (note 5)	939	508
Employee leave liability	666	656
Deferred revenue	7	59
Employee termination benefits	847	899
	<u>\$3,867</u>	<u>\$3,025</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Equity (note 6)	1,955	1,828
	<u>\$ 5,822</u>	<u>\$4,853</u>

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

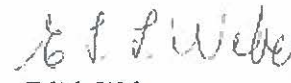
Approved by the Board:


Danny Yakeleya
Chairperson of the Board


Bob Simpson
Chairperson of the Finance Committee

Approved by Management:


Chuck Parker
President


Edith Weber
Bursar/Chief Financial Officer

Statement of Operations and Equity

for the year ended June 30, 1998
(thousands of dollars)

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>		
Contributions	\$ 18,130	\$ 15,921
Project Income	5,101	4,679
Tuition fees	984	857
Room and board	548	583
Investment income	91	133
Other	244	244
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>\$25,098</u>	<u>\$22,417</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Salaries, wages and benefits	12,561	12,035
Contract services	5,887	4,834
Materials and supplies	2,043	1,620
Utilities	1,919	1,143
Travel and accommodation	972	913
Fees and payments	600	712
Communication, postage and freight	589	510
Amortization	400	309
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$24,971</u>	<u>\$22,076</u>
<u>SURPLUS</u>	<u>\$127</u>	<u>\$341</u>
<u>EQUITY AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</u>	<u>\$1,828</u>	<u>\$1,487</u>
<u>EQUITY AT THE END OF YEAR</u>	<u>\$ 1,955</u>	<u>\$ 1,828</u>

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

Statement of Changes in Financial Position

for the year ended June 30, 1998
(thousands of dollars)

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
<u>Operating activities</u>		
Surplus	\$127	\$341
Items not requiring an outlay of cash		
Employee leave benefits	10	86
Employee termination benefits	(52)	134
Amortization	<u>400</u>	<u>309</u>
	485	870
Change in non-cash operating assets and liabilities	<u>206</u>	<u>678</u>
Cash used for operating activities	691	1,548
<u>Investing activities</u>		
Acquisition of capital assets	<u>(2,627)</u>	<u>(266)</u>
Increase/Decrease in cash	(1,936)	1,282
Cash at beginning of period	<u>2,641</u>	<u>1,359</u>
Cash at end of period	<u>\$705</u>	<u>\$2,641</u>

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

Notes to the Financial Statement

June 30, 1998

1. AUTHORITY AND MANDATE

The Aurora College operates under the authority of the *Public Colleges Act*. The College is a Schedule B Public Agency as listed in the *Financial Administration Act*.

Under a contribution agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) 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.

Aurora College is a multi-campus institution designed to provide a wide variety of educational services to adult learners of the western Northwest Territories. 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 in the western Northwest Territories. Through the work of the Aurora Research Institute, the College is also responsible for the facilitation and preparation of research activity in the region.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Capital assets

Capital assets transferred to the College from the former Arctic College and the Science Institute of the Northwest Territories, effective January 1, 1995, were recorded at the fair market value at that date, determined as the original cost less accumulated amortization, or estimated market value. Subsequent acquisitions are recorded at cost. Capital assets are amortized over their estimated remaining lives on a straight-line basis at the following annual rates:

Furniture and equipment	20 - 40%
Mobile equipment	10 - 50%
Leasehold improvements	10 - 33.33%
Building Additions and Renovations	5%

Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue represents payments received under contract for which the development and delivery of programs has not been completed. These amounts are recorded in income as obligations are fulfilled.

Employee termination benefits

On termination of employment, employees are entitled to benefits provided for under their terms of employment. The liability for these benefits is recorded as the benefits accrue to the employees.

Contributions

Contributions from the Government of the Northwest Territories are the amounts set out in the Government's Main Estimates and represent the majority of the base funding for the College to cover its expenditures. Contributions are recognized on the statement of operations and equity in the year in which the related expenses are recognized.

Project income

The College provides education and research services to outside parties through contractual arrangements. Project income is deferred and recognized in the year in which the related expenses are recognized.

Investment income

The College earns investment income through an agreement whereby the Government of the Northwest Territories invests the College's available cash balances. The nature of this agreement is such that the College is not exposed to any credit risk or potential for loss of capital. Investment income is recorded in the year it is earned.

Contract services

Contract services are acquired by the College through contractual arrangements. They include printing services, advertising, building and equipment repairs, software development, curriculum development, food service contracts, janitorial contracts, instruction contracts, leases and rental agreements. These amounts are charged as an expense in the year the service is used.

Pension plan

Employees of the College participate in the Public Service Superannuation Plan administered by the Government of Canada. The employees and the College contribute equally to the cost of the plan. The College's contributions are charged as an expenditure on a current year basis, and represent the total pension obligations of the College. The College is not required under present legislation to make contributions with respect to actuarial deficiencies of the Public Service Superannuation Account.

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	<u>1998</u>		<u>1997</u>	
	<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>			
	<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Net</u>
	<u>Receivable</u>			
Contracts				
- GNWT	\$ 1,108	-	\$ 1,108	\$ 246
- Other	512	47	465	627
Students	241	112	129	150
Advances	18	-	18	16
	<u>\$1,879</u>	<u>\$ 159</u>	<u>\$ 1,720</u>	<u>\$ 1,039</u>

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

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

	<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture and equipment	\$ 506	\$ 315	\$ 191	\$ 205
Mobile equipment	1,197	635	562	620
Leasehold improvements	657	113	544	186
Building renovations	1,991	50	1,941	-
	<u>\$ 4,351</u>	<u>\$ 1,113</u>	<u>\$3,238</u>	<u>\$1,011</u>

5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Under the transfer policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories, certain support services are provided to the College by various government departments.

The College is required to reimburse the Department of Public Works and Services for the actual utility and operating costs of the facilities that the College uses in its activities. The Financial Management Board Secretariat (FMBS) is reimbursed for the actual employee benefits and recruitment costs of the College's employees.

The transactions with departments are as follows:

<u>Department</u>	Fees charged by service departments during the year <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>		Amount outstanding as at June 30 <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Department of Public Works and Services	\$1,745	\$2,158	\$304	\$325
FMBS - employee benefits	136	307	37	-
- payroll	-	-	593	118
Other departments	118	206	5	65
	<u>\$1,999</u>	<u>\$2,671</u>	<u>\$939</u>	<u>\$508</u>

The FMBS and the Department of Finance provide, without any charge, services which include the processing of payroll and the provision of insurance and risk management.

The College also receives, without any charge, legal counsel from the Department of Justice, internal audit services from the FMBS, construction management from the Department of Public Works and Services and translation services from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

Other related party transactions include:

	<u>1998</u> <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	<u>1997</u> <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>
Department of Education, Culture and Employment		
Contribution	\$18,130	\$15,921
Courses and projects	2,207	1,701
Project income for courses delivered for other		
Government departments	1,292	871

In addition to those related party transactions disclosed above, the College is related in terms of common ownership to all Government of the Northwest Territories created departments, agencies and Crown corporations. The College enters into transactions with these entities in the normal course of business.

6. EQUITY

The equity balance includes the book value of capital assets transferred from the former Arctic College and Science Institute of the Northwest Territories and capital assets contributed by the Government of the Northwest Territories as of January 1, 1995 and the results of operations since that date. The equity balance includes a \$46,338 reserve for research and development, a \$126,483 reserve for the maintenance and replacement of heavy equipment, a \$117,000 reserve for program delivery and a \$15,427 donation reserve.

7. COMMITMENTS

The College has leases and service agreements for student accommodation, classroom space, office equipment and other services and is committed to basic payments as follows:

	<i>(thousands of dollars)</i>
1999	\$1,735
2000	1,735
2001	1,716
2002	1,698
2003	1,663
	<u>\$ 8,547</u>

8. UNCERTAINTY DUE TO THE YEAR 2000 ISSUE

The Year 2000 issue arises because many computerized systems use two digits rather than four to identify a year. Date sensitive systems may recognize the Year 2000 as 1900 or some other date, resulting in errors when information using Year 2000 dates is processed. In addition similar problems may arise in some systems which use certain dates

in 1999 to represent something other than a date. The effects of the Year 2000 issue may be experienced before, on, or after January 1, 2000, and if not addressed, the impact on operations and financial reporting may range from minor errors to significant systems failures which could affect an entity's ability to conduct normal business operations. It is not possible to be certain that all aspects of the Year 2000 issue affecting the entity, including those related to the efforts of the Government of the Northwest Territories, customers, suppliers, or other third parties will be fully resolved.

9. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the method of Financial Statement presentation adopted for the current year.