

Quarterly Report

APRIL 2023



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Since the last quarterly report there have been several announcements and updates to Aurora College Transformation projects. Some updates include the re-establishment of the Aurora College Board of Governors, release of the Aurora College Mandate, progress on the exploration of Tin Can Hill as a possible site for the Yellowknife North Slave campus and more. Read about all the recent highlights below and remember to follow along with transformation updates by visiting the [Aurora College Transformation website](#).

Quick Facts

Aurora College is transforming into a polytechnic university. It is expected that this work will be complete in May 2025.

Just like Aurora College does now, the polytechnic university will have a campus and student housing options in Fort Smith, Inuvik, and Yellowknife. Proposed enhancements to these facilities have been identified in the [Polytechnic Facilities Master Plan \(FMP\)](#), but will require funding to implement over the next several years.

Transformation is a collaboration between Aurora College and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Though often presented as one project, transformation is in fact a collection of over 100 projects, spread over three phases and divided among more than 20 critical milestones, which can be viewed [here](#).

Transformation is in phase two, which includes several projects intended to support the institution to prepare to offer new programming and prepare to transform into a university. Those project milestones led by the GNWT are nearing completions, with most of the remaining projects led by Aurora College, with support from government.

The Aurora College Board of Governors has been re-established and is the first of the three new governing bodies to be formalized as Aurora College moves towards becoming arm's-length from government.

The [Aurora College Mandate Agreement](#) between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Aurora College has been released and sets out the shared strategic priorities and scope of activities that will be reported by the College and future polytechnic university. Using the Mandate Agreement as a tool, the Aurora College Board of Governors will steer the institution in a way that addresses both the unique needs of Aurora College and the public it serves.

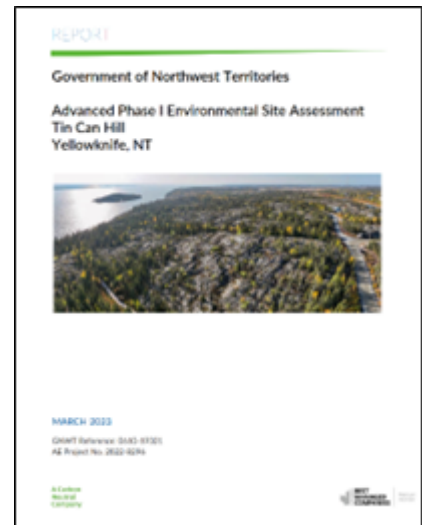
Recent Projects Updates

Phase 1 Environmental Assessment Complete on Tin Can Hill

Last year, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Aurora College, the Government of the Northwest Territories and City of Yellowknife that identified interest in Tin Can Hill as the future site for the Yellowknife North Slave campus of the polytechnic university. The MOU is not a formal application for the transfer of land ownership from the City.

Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) are a normal step in a land transfer process. In September 2022 phase 1 of the ESA for Tin Can Hill was initiated by the GNWT. The results of that assessment were received in March and indicate a moderate presence of arsenic on the site with a recommendation to conduct further studies. The results of the first study have been posted on the Aurora College Transformation website [here](#).

Planning is underway for phase 2 of the ESA. The GNWT will complete both ESAs and conduct a risk assessment of future environmental liabilities before deciding whether to apply for a land transfer from the City.



Community Learning Centres (CLCs)

There are currently 21 CLCs across the Northwest Territories delivering a wide range of programming, such as adult literacy, academic upgrading, and professional development to residents. CLCs are extensions of Aurora College campuses (in Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and Inuvik) and programming is different in each community as the needs of individual communities differ.

Aurora College and the GNWT have started working with a contractor to explore opportunities to enhance CLCs as part of Aurora College's transformation to a polytechnic university. The document that will contain a proposed approach for CLC enhancements across communities to better serve Northwest Territories residents, will be released later this year. This will be a valuable tool for Aurora College to consider when planning future programming or requests for capital investments from governments.

Aurora College Organization Design

One of the critical milestones currently underway is the Aurora College Organization Design. The planning work for this project is being led by Aurora College and is slated to be complete and ready for implementation in early 2024.

The organization re-design will support Aurora College as it transforms to a polytechnic university and is a requirement of the quality assurance and accreditation review that Aurora College will undergo through Campus Alberta Quality Assurance Council (CAQAC).

The role of the Government of the Northwest Territories throughout the organizational design contract is to provide strategic advice to Aurora College regarding corporate requirements and identify any concerns regarding the future organizational design of the polytechnic university.

Recent News Releases

For more Aurora College Transformation updates, read some of the recent news release below.

All public releases for transformation can be found on the Aurora College Transformation website. Aurora College releases can be found by visiting their newsroom.

- [News Release: Aurora College Board of Governors Members Appointed](#)
- [News Release: Aurora College Board of Governors Chairperson Announced](#)
- [News Release: Mandate Agreement between the GNWT and Aurora College Released](#)
- [News Release: Aurora College Transformation Critical Milestone Timeline Updated and Includes Degree Program Implementation Dates](#)
- [News Release: Conference Board of Canada Releases Report Highlighting Polytechnic University Benefits](#)

To follow along with the transformation process and get updates as they happen, visit the Aurora College Transformation website at <https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/aurora-transformation/en>.