



MEETING SD 64-20-25

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**MONDAY JUNE 9, 2025
DET'ANCHOGH KÚÉ - EAGLE ROOM
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. In Camera Matters
 - a) SD Priorities
 - b) Legislation Before Committee
 - i. Bill 27: An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act
 - ii. Bill 28: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, No. 2
 - c) Public Safety Project
 - d) Confidential correspondence
 - i. 2025-05-30 Honourable Minister HSS
 - ii. 2025-05-29 Honourable Minister ECE
6. Public Matters
 - a) Public briefing with ECE Minister Honourable Caitlin Cleveland on Aurora College Mandate Agreement 2025-2028
7. In camera matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) SCOSD Workplan
8. New Business
 - a)
9. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
 - a) Tuesday June 10, 2025 at 9am
10. Adjournment

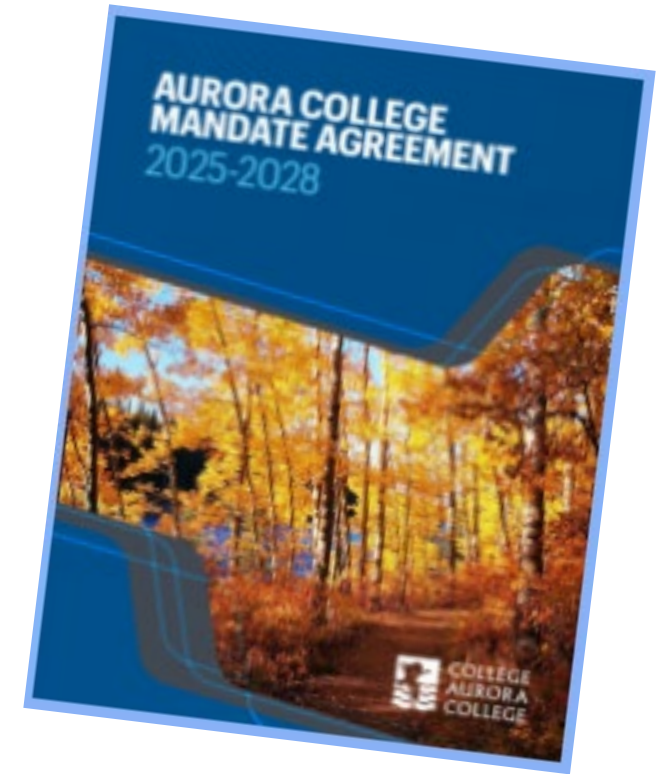
Aurora College 2025-2028 Mandate Agreement & Transformation Update

June 9, 2025



2025-2028 Aurora College Mandate Agreement

- Released in February 2025: The Aurora College Mandate Agreement (ACMA) focuses on the priorities shared by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and the Aurora College Board of Governors from 2025 to 2028, highlighting the shared strategic priorities and the scope of activities undertaken by Aurora College during this timeframe.
- Using the ACMA as a tool, the Aurora College Board of Governors will steer the initiatives and operations in a way that addresses both the needs of Aurora College and the public it serves.
- The ACMA serves as a roadmap for Aurora College's activities and decisions during the 20th Legislative Assembly.



AC Mandate Agreement Overview

- The shared strategic priorities of the 2025-2028 Aurora College Mandate Agreement include:
 1. Transform to a polytechnic university
 2. Strengthen governance
 3. Improve infrastructure
 4. Academic and research excellence
 5. Learning centred
 6. Enhance connections
 7. Organizational effectiveness
- The AC Mandate is informed by Aurora College's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan



1. Transform to a Polytechnic University

- This priority overarches all work to be undertaken for the duration of the ACMA. The success of Aurora College will be examined in the context of transformational change and progress toward becoming an effective, efficient, and sustainable polytechnic university equipped to meet the needs of current and future generations of Northerners.
- Success in any area of the ACMA must not limit the transformation process. The ACMA is about building a foundation for the successful launch of the polytechnic university in 2027.*



**Launch in 2027 is dependent on the outcome of the Fall 2025 CAQC evaluation.*

2. Strengthen Governance

- Aurora College continues to implement its innovative system of tricameral governance, which includes:
 1. Board of Governors (BOG),
 2. Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council (IKHC), and
 3. Academic Council (AC)
- The relationship between BOG and the Minister has evolved to reflect national standards and best practices in post-secondary education, reflecting a more arm's length relationship, which will support institutional success.
- The IKHC working alongside with the BOG and AC is essential for ensuring the development of a leading northern polytechnic university that honours and integrates Indigenous knowledge systems with academic and governance structures.



3. Improve Infrastructure

- Addressing infrastructure challenges across campuses, and student housing is critical for supporting the unique educational needs of the territory.
- Aging facilities and inadequate infrastructure limit the capacity to deliver high-quality programming, particularly the North Slave Campus in Yellowknife.
- The lack of sufficient student housing also exacerbates barriers to education, especially for students from remote communities. By prioritizing new and creative uses of existing infrastructure, including student housing, we will foster an inclusive and accessible learning environment that supports economic prosperity and attracts future investment.



4. Academic and Research Excellence

The continued Mandate Priorities align with the Aurora College Strategic Plan 2024-2027 as follows:

- Aurora College is committed to excellence by fostering a dynamic learning, teaching, and research environment.
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5. Learning Centred

- Aurora College will provide learners with programs and services that are adaptive and flexible to help meet their academic and personal goals.
- There is a focus on empowering learners to develop the confidence necessary to be successful during their studies and beyond.
- Fostering a sense of success and community well-being, and education that is culturally relevant and addresses all students' needs and experiences will be promoted.





6. Connections

- Aurora College will establish and strengthen partnerships with Indigenous governments, communities, industry, the GNWT, non-governmental organizations, and other academic institutions.
- These partnerships will be a key element in responding to local and regional needs, and to labour demand.
- Building strong connections with education, industry, infrastructure, and funding partners will ensure students and staff have more opportunities to learn and grow. This includes identifying and promoting clear academic pathways for prospective students in communities to access post-secondary education and training.
- The Indigenous Knowledge Holders Council will guide reconciliation efforts and build stronger relationships with Elders, families, schools, and communities to promote the revitalization of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing, being, and believing into programs and operations.

7. Organizational Effectiveness

- Aurora College is committed to transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the need for integrated planning, operational excellence, and continuous quality improvement.
- This will be supported by monitoring and reporting on institutional performance, a clear understanding of operational needs and costs, evolution of Aurora's Colleges arm's length relationship with the GNWT, and through practices that are culturally inclusive and aligned with the values and needs of Indigenous communities.



Transformation to a Polytechnic University

- Aurora College is transforming to a polytechnic university to increase access to quality post-secondary education opportunities for Northerners and to foster growth of research that is beneficial to our communities and people.
- The polytechnic university will be about training for jobs that are needed in the NWT to make sure residents are first in line for those jobs and will therefore work in partnership with business and industry to be responsive to the labour market needs.
- What is a polytechnic?
Polytechnic institutes position themselves strategically between a college and university. They offer education that prepares graduates for work in their field and provide study depth like universities. Learning at a polytechnic is career-focused, technical, and hands-on.



Transformation to the Aurora Polytechnic – cont'd

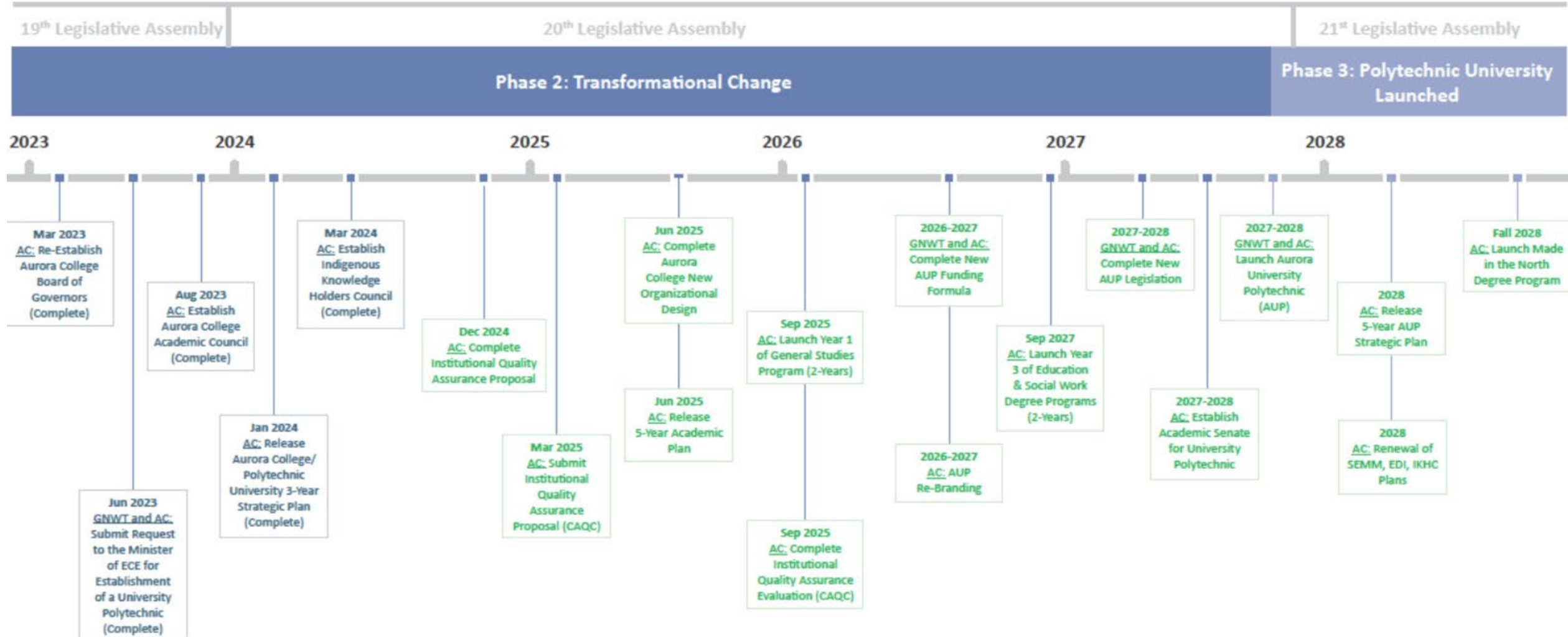
- Significant progress has been made in the transformation process as we move towards the formal launch of the polytechnic university in the Fall of 2027.* Since a polytechnic university will bring considerable benefits to NWT communities, there is a collective commitment to achieve this goal.
- Building on the successes of Aurora College, the polytechnic university will prepare students for the modern workforce in key sectors such as natural resources, health and social services, education, technology, and applied research among others.
- Indigenous knowledge and practices will be integrated into all aspects of the new polytechnic institute, ensuring that education and research reflect the North's unique cultural and environmental contexts.

*Launch in 2027 is dependent on the outcome of the Fall 2025 CAQC evaluation.



Updated Transformation Critical Path: 2023-2028

- *Distribute handout – clearer perspective on larger paper*



Aurora Polytechnic Critical Path – Chart Form

	Description	Transformation Categories	Timeline
1)	AC: Complete Institutional Quality Assurance Proposal	Core - Completed	January 2025
2)	AC: Submit Institutional Quality Assurance Proposal (CAQC)	Core – Completed	March 2025
3)	Complete Aurora College New Organizational Design*	Ancillary	June 2025
4)	AC: Release 5-Year Academic Plan	Core	June 2025
5)	AC: Complete Institutional Quality Assurance Evaluation (CAQC) – Outcome of this evaluation will impact Numbers 10 to 13	Core	September 2025
6)	AC: Launch Year 1 General Studies Program (2-Years)	Program Delivery	September 2025
7)	AC & GNWT: Complete New AP Funding Formula	Core	2026-2027
8)	AC: AP Re-Branding	Core	2026-2027
9)	AC: Launch Year 3 Education & Social Work Degree Programs (2-Years)	Program Delivery	September 2027
10)	AC & GNWT: Complete New AP Legislation	Core	2027-2028
11)	AC: Establish Academic Senate for Aurora Polytechnic	Core	2027-2028
12)	AC & GNWT: Launch Aurora Polytechnic	Core	2027-2028
13)	AC: Launch Made in the North Degree Program	Program Delivery	Fall 2028

A Closer Look at Quality Assurance Steps

- Aurora College Institutional Self Study (ISS) (120 pgs.) submitted to CAQC – April 7, 2025
- Made in North White Paper – Bachelor of Business Administration with an Indigenous Leadership focus
- Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC) evaluation preparation – June 2025
- CAQC organizational evaluation – to be arranged for Fall 2025: North Slave and Thebacha campuses



Funding for Aurora Polytechnic Mandate Items

- Working with ECE towards a sustainable funding plan for Aurora Polytechnic:
 - 2025-2026 Aurora College Budget Development process will advance the three-fold implementation plan further to the CLC closures:
 1. Staff Retention Policy – final Notice to Attend (NTA) Meeting – April 17, 2025
 - 31 NTA meetings with CLC closures affected staff
 - NTA meetings were completed by April 17, 2025
 2. Re-Designed Upgrading Program with Wraparound Services: 3 campuses and 33 NWT communities
 3. Aurora College Mandate Agreement mandate items



Mársi
Kinanāskomitin
Thank you
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Questions?