



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2024

Aurora College School of Health and Human Services welcomes \$450,000 contribution from De Beers Group

YELLOWKNIFE, NT – Aurora College and De Beers Group are proud to announce a three-year, \$450,000 contribution to support elder care and community health in the Northwest Territories.

The funding from the Snap Lake mine closure project for this year goes toward practicum bursaries, Elders in Motion workshops, research into palliative/advanced care, and hiring of Indigenous Knowledge Holders. The College will receive \$150,000 annually from 2024-2026.

Funding from De Beers Group goes toward:

- 13 students in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Practical Nurse Diploma and Personal Support Worker Certificate programs who will receive bursaries from a \$45,000 fund to support their participation in practicums outside of Yellowknife, including Behchokò, Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik (*list of 2024 recipients attached*);
- Training health care students to lead Elders in Motion workshops at Elder/senior gatherings in Yellowknife, Behchokò, Ndilò and Dettah;
- Research into Palliative Care and Advance Care in the NWT; and,
- A pilot project to hire Indigenous Knowledge Holders at the School of Health and Human Services who can provide Indigenous perspectives on health and healing, especially with regards to Elder care.

To maximize resources and build on existing programs and initiatives, Aurora College is working with the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA), the NWT Department of Health and Social Services (DHHS), Tłıchq Health and Social Services, and the NWT Recreation and Parks Association.

Snap Lake mine is located 230 km northeast of Yellowknife. The mine opened in July 2008 and operations ended in 2015. Active closure is expected to be complete by the end of 2024 and the site will enter long-term monitoring in 2025 following a final winter road program to remove remaining equipment and materials from the site. This contribution is aligned with Building Forever, De Beers Group's comprehensive sustainability framework, focused on creating a positive and sustainable impact in our partner countries and host communities

Quotes:

“We’re proud to be investing in students and elders and to help strengthen connections between health care practitioners and Indigenous communities. Even as active closure at Snap Lake comes to an end later this year, we see this as helping lay the groundwork for lasting, positive impacts within the Northwest Territories.”

- Kelly Brenton, Social Performance Manager, De Beers Group Managed Operations

“Keeping stable and continuous health care staffing in small community health centres is an ongoing challenge in the Northwest Territories. Exposure to different locations and opportunities can encourage students to consider employment in smaller centres, and fill existing labour gaps with northern-educated and Indigenous graduates. This can lead to less reliance on locum and southern health care professionals and can result in more consistent care for residents.”

- Dr. Glenda Vardy Dell, President, Aurora College

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2024 COMMUNITY PRACTICUM BURSARY RECIPIENTS:

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Year 4

Kady Tennant
Ronell Landry
Antonia Lafferty

Year 3

Peace Umukoro
Osasere Odiase
Sean Smith
Lanita Thrasher
Lori MacMillian Gallant
Tessy Izunwanne
Josephine Martin
Michael Lim
Donovan Erutse

Practical Nurse Diploma

Naomi Rabesca

CONTACT

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About De Beers Group

De Beers Group is a member of the Anglo American plc group. Established in 1888, De Beers Group is the world's leading diamond company with expertise in the exploration, mining and marketing of diamonds. Together with its joint venture partners, De Beers Group employs more than 20,000 people across the diamond pipeline and is the world's largest diamond producer by value, with mining operations in Botswana, Canada, Namibia and South Africa. As part of the company's operating philosophy, the people of De Beers Group are committed to " by making a lasting contribution to the communities in which they live and work, and transforming natural resources into shared national wealth. For further information about De Beers Group, visit www.debeersgroup.com.

About Aurora College

Aurora College delivers academic upgrading, trades and industrial training, certificate, diploma and degree programs to students at three campuses, 19 Community Learning Centres and other community sites in the Northwest Territories. Community-centred post-secondary programs reflect Northern culture and the needs of the Northern labour market. Aurora College's research division, Aurora Research Institute, conducts and supports research in the NWT. Research centres are located in Inuvik, Yellowknife and Fort Smith.