

News Release

For Immediate Release

MP McLeod celebrates completion of project to improve facilities at Aurora College

Federal investment of \$4,078,764 is creating jobs, expanding research and fostering innovation in the Northwest Territories

January 7, 2019 – Government of Canada

Construction and modernization of facilities at Aurora College are completed. Michael McLeod, Member of Parliament for Northwest Territories, was in Fort Smith today on behalf of the Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, to mark the public official opening of the Centre for Mine and Industry Training (CMIT). Representing the Government of Northwest Territories at the event were the Honourable Caroline Cochrane, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment; the Honourable Wally Schumann, Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment; and the Honourable Louis Sebert, MLA for Thebacha.

Aurora College received an investment of \$4,078,764 through the Government of Canada's [Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund](#) to create the CMIT, which will focus on the development, delivery and maintenance of both mining-related curriculum and the Heavy Equipment Operator program. The total cost of the project was \$10,395,046, with the GNWT contributing \$6,316,282 to the facility.

Building state-of-the-art facilities, labs and modern learning spaces is essential for skills and innovation. That's why the Government invested \$2 billion in 300 projects under the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund to renew university and college campuses across the country. The Fund also supports improved energy efficiency of lab facilities to help reduce their impact on the environment.

As a result of these investments, students, professors and researchers will work in state-of-the-art facilities to advance research and innovation in Canada. They will collaborate in specially designed spaces and work in close proximity with partners to turn discoveries into products or services. In the process, they will train for—and create—the high-value jobs of the future.

The Government of Canada's [Innovation and Skills Plan](#) aims to make this country a global centre for innovation—one that creates jobs, drives growth across all industries and improves the lives of all Canadians. Today's announcement is a prime example of that vision in action.

The Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund is jump-starting a virtual circle of innovation and creating the right conditions for long-term growth that will yield benefits for generations to come.

Quotes

“The Government of Canada's investment in Aurora College is creating the right conditions for innovation and long-term growth, which will keep the Northwest Territories' economy globally competitive. It's not only about creating jobs today; we are helping prepare Northerners for the well-paying middle-class jobs of tomorrow.”
– Michael McLeod, Member of Parliament for Northwest Territories

“This historic investment by the Government of Canada is a down payment on the government's vision to position Canada as a global centre for innovation. This means making Canada a world leader in turning ideas into solutions, science into technologies, skills into jobs and start-up companies into global successes.”
– The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development

“Encouraging scientific awareness in the Northwest Territories and throughout Canada depends on supporting our world-class scientists and researchers. Through investments such as those under the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund, we are continuing to lay the groundwork for making Canada a global leader in scientific excellence.”
– The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science and Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities

“Expanding our facilities to accommodate more trades training and education will align the Thebacha campus directly with the needs of the labour market in the Northwest Territories. This new Centre will connect students



with mining and industry occupations and opportunities, reinforcing and furthering the goals established in our Skills 4 Success and Small Community Employment strategies.”

- Caroline Cochrane, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment

“As the largest private sector employer in the territory, mining projects are strengthened when they employ a skilled local workforce. The Centre for Mine and Industry Training will provide valuable and transferable skills in an innovative learning environment that will benefit residents and help us to build our mining workforce in the Northwest Territories. The design of the Centre will also lead to annual greenhouse gas reductions of three tonnes per year from facility operations and help to optimize energy performance.”

-- Wally Schumann, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

Quick facts

- The targeted, short-term investments under the [Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund](#) are promoting economic activity across Canada and helping Canada’s universities and colleges develop highly skilled workers, act as engines of discovery, and collaborate on innovations that help Canadian companies compete and grow internationally.
- The Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund is supporting the Government of Canada’s climate change objectives by encouraging sustainable and green infrastructure projects.
- Budget 2018 proposed a historic investment of nearly \$4 billion in research, researchers and needed equipment.
- The Innovation and Skills Plan is helping grow the economy, creating middle-class jobs—2 million more in science- and tech-related fields by 2025—and providing Canadians with the skills they need to succeed.

Associated links

- [Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund](#)
- [Innovation and Skills Plan](#)

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Contacts

Hayden Moher
Executive Assistant
Office of Michael McLeod
Member of Parliament for Northwest Territories
613-992-4587
Michael.mcleod@parl.gc.ca

