

February 7th, 2019

Dear Mr. Premier and Cabinet,

Re: Potential Strike by Unionized Employees at Aurora College

As you are well aware the Union of Northern Workers has served strike notice on behalf of the GNWT unionized employees effective Monday at 1 minute past midnight on Monday, February 11th, 2019. Any strike would have significant impact on the Yellowknife Aurora College student body, our instructors/support staff and the College as a whole. Aside from missed classes, lack of access to our teachers, resources, missed practical time, and for many more reasons a strike would be detrimental to our studies.

The uncertainty has already caused a significant amount of stress and anxiety amongst the Aurora College students for whom their pursuit of education is their number one priority. It is a great concern that a strike could lead to a disrupted academic year. The students of Aurora College are subjected to demanding academic schedules which leave very little room for modification. In the event of a strike, a prolonged academic year would compromise the already limited time the students have to earn an income and would be crippling for an already financially burdened population. In addition, graduating students would be unable to join the workforce which, would further negatively impact our Northern economy.

I and my fellow students understand that Binding Arbitration at this point is the only way to be certain to avoid a painful and potentially damaging strike. I, and the student body urge you to consider our request to come to a resolve in order to avoid the damage this dispute could impress upon the Aurora College population and the Territory as a whole.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss in person please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Morandin', written in a cursive style.

Samantha Morandin

Student Association President

Aurora College, Yellowknife Campus