



## NWT RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

November 4, 2005

Maurice Evans  
President, Aurora College  
P.O. Box 1290  
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0

### **RE: Recreation Leaders Program**

Dear Mr. Evans,

I am writing in regards to Aurora College's Recreation Leaders Program (RLP), based out of the Aurora Campus in Inuvik. The RLP has been providing quality leadership training for community recreation professionals since 1986. It is with enthusiasm that we take this opportunity to provide you with some valuable feedback that we have gained from discussions with our members, with communities, with our recreation and sport partners, and from prospective applicants to the RLP.

The NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) is a non-profit organization that works with community leaders and recreation professionals to help them get their residents to become more active. Our primary focus is to provide leadership, support and services in the areas of trails, aquatics, active living, and professional development. The NWTRPA is a lead partner in the NWT Recreation and Sport System.

The NWTRPA has been working with the RLP over the past three years to provide recruitment assistance through our Ambassadors Program. The Ambassadors Program is a network of professionals in the field, community representatives, regional representatives, and recreation and sport partners that help to recruit motivated and qualified individuals to the RLP. Over the past three years, the NWTRPA has been coordinating the efforts of the Ambassadors to identify, provide information to, and sign-up interested individuals from across the NWT for the RLP.

Unfortunately, over the past years, it has become more difficult to find prospective students from all regions of the NWT. As a result, we are seeing fewer students enrolled in the RLP from regions outside of the Beaufort-Delta.

The NWTRPA also provides information and communication with organizations representing community leadership. The NWTRPA has received valuable feedback from recent presentations to the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT).

Below is some of the feedback that we have heard from our Ambassadors, our Sport and Recreation Partners, and community leaders through the NWTAC and LGANT on the RLP:

- The RLP is an important and valued program for the continued success of the NWT Recreation and Sport System;
- The RLP provides an excellent training and education opportunity for individuals interested in the recreation profession;
- Graduates from the RLP are provided with many interesting and exciting job opportunities (100% of graduates hired);
- The RLP's current location may be a barrier to attracting prospective students from all regions of the NWT to the program;
- The RLP's current location may be a factor for students dropping out of the program;
- Communities would like additional support from the RLP in the form of shorter-term/modular training, and/or community-based training for its recreation staff and volunteers.

Given this feedback, and our understanding that Aurora College is currently reviewing its strategic plans, the NWTRPA would like to submit two recommendations to Aurora College for their review.

Recommendations:

- That Aurora College undertakes a review of the Recreation Leaders Program to evaluate its current location as compared to other possible locations in attracting, recruiting and retaining qualified applicants, and the impacts that relocation would have on the program;
- That Aurora College considers allocating additional resources to the Recreation Leaders Program to provide community outreach and/or modular training to its existing curriculum.

Please let me restate that Aurora College's Recreation Leaders Program provides a quality education and training experience. The RLP is vital to our ability to provide qualified community recreation leaders to deliver recreation and sport services. The students who have graduated from the program are now leaders in their field and are helping to improve the health of NWT residents and communities.

Should you have any questions regarding these themes and messages, please contact me at (867) 873 -5340 or by email at [gray@nwtrpa.org](mailto:gray@nwtrpa.org). We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Geoff Ray  
Executive Director

cc. Charles Dent, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment  
Michael McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs  
NWT Council of Sport and Recreation Partners  
NWT Association of Communities  
Local Government Administrators of the NWT