

**ORAL QUESTION—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE**

**QUESTION 823/829-18(2)  
AURORA COLLEGE BOARD DISMISSAL/COLLEGE REVIEW**

**September 19, 2017**

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my statement, the Minister fired the Aurora College board just a few days after we finished sitting last time, saying that the move was necessary for "continuity and sustainability." Mr. Speaker, "continuity" means the state of being continuous. "Sustainability" means the ability to be sustained, supported, upheld, or confirmed. Can the Minister explain how removing the board provides continuity and sustainability? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and with the removal of the board, it brought a focus on the review itself. We are going to be looking at the operations of the Aurora College, as well as the governance of Aurora College, and that is where we are focusing with this foundational review. When we get the results at the end of the review, we will be in a position where we can make the decisions moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** I see that the Minister is not going to repeat his baffle-gab, so I take that as a win. The terms of reference for the foundational review ask the contractor to assess whether the board, as part of the governance structure, is operating effectively. Has that question not been answered by the Minister's decision to dismiss them?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** A lot has happened from 2013 to 2017, where we are today. We have more information that we did not have before, NWT-specific information that we can work with our partners with, our non-government organizations, about how we proceed on the operations of Aurora College. At the end of the day, it is all about student success and having the right programs in place to ensure that our students succeed and become part of the workforce, and those areas can be addressed: legislation, administration, governance, as well as operation.

**MS. GREEN:** Deflection is not an answer either. The Cleveland report on Aurora College made a number of specific recommendations to strengthen the relationship between the board, the Minister, and the department. For example, in very simple terms he recommended that the Minister meet with the board four times a year and facilitate meetings between the College and the Regular MLAs. Did that ever happen?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Yes, previous to the decisions that I made we did meet with the board on a regular basis, and with the discussions in the May/June sitting we thought it was best to go in the direction in which we are removing it now with the foundational review that is going to look at everything. Prior to that, we did have those meetings with the board on a regular basis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister tell us when the last time was that he met with the full board? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** I do not have the exact date, but I could get that date and share it with the Member. Thank you.

**QUESTION 829-18(2):  
AURORA COLLEGE REVIEW**

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. When he announced the foundational review of Aurora College in May, he said it would take six to eight months. The contract for this review was awarded about two weeks ago. Can the Minister update us of when the review will be complete and in the government's hands? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are at a point right now where it is a very opportune time for the government to make sure that we do this right and that we do get a product and get the results and hear from our partners across the Northwest Territories, and get that information we need so that we can make those evidence-based decisions, and wait for those results. Right now, that contract was awarded. I think Members of this House should be patient and ensure that we do this right, and make sure that we get a really good product at the end of the day, and let our contractors do their job and make sure that we get the results that we need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** I am very familiar with the "we need time to do it right route" here. We have been through that before. What does the contract say about the delivery for the final report?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** I will have to get that information from the department, and then I will get it back to the Member.

**MS. GREEN:** As the Minister is aware, business plans are being developed for a presentation to Regular Members in the middle of November, so will there be any results from this review that will inform the business plans for the next fiscal year?

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** As we get updates from the contractor and the work that they are doing, I will just ask Members to be patient and wait until we get those results, and we will continue to try and update Members on the progress that is being made.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister also asking the students and instructors in the teaching and social work program to be patient for an additional year? They are, of course, not taking new students pending the results of the foundational review. Is that still going to be the case? Thank you.

**HON. ALFRED MOSES:** We do want to get information from our partners, or non-government organizations, people who have invested interest into getting our students

into the NWT work force, and making sure that NWT students do succeed and have every opportunity through program services that we do provide, whether it is in the school system or the post-secondary institutions. We're going to make sure that we look at some of the information that we have. Now, this is the first time that the NWT ever had specific labour market information. We are going to use that to make sure that we give our students every opportunity to get an education, for one, and also become part of the NWT work force and offer those program services so that they can succeed. It is all about the students and making sure that, at the end of the day, they succeed and be part of their communities and a vibrant Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.