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Her Worship, Rebecca Alty
Mayor, City of Yellowknife
4807 52nd Street, Box 580
Yellowknife, NT
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June 17th, 2019

Re: Post-Secondary Education in Yellowknife

Dear Mayor Alty,

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share and discuss the results of the Yellowknife University Feasibility and Benefits Study with our Board of Directors. We were pleased with the quality of the study and it's unbiased, evidence-based approach.

After engaging with our membership, we have taken the formal position that post-secondary transformation in the NWT is needed and that the head office of any post-secondary institution should be based in Yellowknife. However, we do believe that there is an important role for the Fort Smith and Inuvik campuses, and we support the City's position that they are "well positioned to focus on specialized programming and their continued role is important to move ahead successfully".

We are pleased to offer our support to the City of Yellowknife, for the GNWT to establish a clear post-secondary vision and to advance a polytechnic university in Yellowknife.

In closing, we'd like to share some of the comments we received from our membership during our annual membership survey. 74.5% of survey respondents supported a Yellowknife-based University, while 14.5% did not. The remaining 11% were not sure of their position.

In Support:

"This is a great opportunity for the city. It is sustainable. Biggest opportunity is that it would reduce our reliance on government and create business opportunities. Biggest threat is inadequate response from the community."

"A great way to increase employment, retain workers and encourage individuals to get their post secondary."

"A university would be very much welcomed in the community. Not only would it keep many students in the North, but it would have very profitable economic benefits for everyone."

"I believe it could be sustainable, but an independent approach has to be established and Government and politics need to be left out."

Opposed:

"Too expensive for the population in the north. Doesn't make sense."

"No. University is not sustainable because our population is too small. We need college level training and journey person training."

"I am not convinced that the university would have the enrollment numbers required for success."

"Not a feasible idea. The knowledge economy is generally well serviced in Canada with universities. The future economy needs trades people."

As you can see from the comments against the creation of a University in Yellowknife, there is some confusion within the Yellowknife business community as to the model being discussed, if the trades will be incorporated into the proposed post-secondary model, and how students will be recruited.

We look forward to participating on the University Post-Secondary Advisory Committee, bringing forth the ideas and concerns of our membership in response to the study, and working with the Committee to help inform the City's efforts to establish a post-secondary institution in Yellowknife.

Respectfully submitted,



Kyle Thomas, President
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce



Deneen Everett, Executive Director
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

¹ City of Yellowknife. (2018). *City of Yellowknife Advocates For a Clear Post-Secondary Vision And Next Steps in Advancing A Polytechnic University in the NWT*. Retrieved from:
<https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/Modules/News/index.aspx?feedId=1946393b-bd38-4df9-9185-ff169a54b290&keyword=university&newsId=0dd64f60-2666-4945-8481-387d217f2fdc>