

Algonquin College's New Paralegal Program first in Eastern Ontario to be accredited by the Law Society of Upper Canada

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, July 29, 2008 - Algonquin College's new Paralegal Program is the first in Eastern Ontario to receive accreditation from the Law Society of Upper Canada. This accreditation will enable graduates to meet the Law Society's educational requirement for licensing.

"Algonquin College's Paralegal Program provides training and career options to students who are interested in practicing law but not able to invest the time or money in law school," says Dave Donaldson, Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Hospitality, Algonquin College. "This is another example of how Algonquin College continues to upgrade its programming to respond to the needs of our students and local employers."

The two-year diploma program prepares graduates to be independent practitioners in specified areas of law or become employed as a paralegal. Students complete a work experience placement and learn the requirements of running a small business and reporting to clients.

Paralegals provide legal services to the public for a fee. Graduates from this program can represent clients in Small Claims Court, Provincial Offences proceedings, as well as some matters included in the Criminal Code. Graduates are also trained to represent individuals in Administrative proceedings before boards and tribunals such as the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal and various matters relating to the workplace and health and safety issues.

"Employers are interested in hiring graduates from Algonquin College's new Paralegal Program because they get an employee with an excellent balance of theoretical and practical training," says Jerry Aubin, Acting Chair, Financial, Office and Legal Studies. "This program is perfect for professionals interested in providing legal services to the public as well as those who have worked in affiliated roles within the legal system or the student with no experience looking to get started in the field of law."

"I worked in the high-tech industry for a number of years and I am now looking to reinvent myself with a new career in a completely different field," says Anita Cadieux, stay-at-home-mother of two and student enrolled in the Paralegal Program starting this Fall. "I considered taking a law degree, but I wasn't sure I wanted to invest the time – this two-year program is perfect. With this training I can start my own business providing contract paralegal services."

As of May 2010 only accredited programs can offer paralegal training for licensing candidates. Algonquin College's new Paralegal Program will begin in September, 2008.

About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation's Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is the largest college in Eastern Ontario. Algonquin is a leader in the integration of technology into learning. Algonquin College has a diverse population of approximately 16,000 full-time students and more than 33,000 part-time registrations in over 140 programs and is committed to student success. For more information please visit www.algonquincollege.com.

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