

## More than \$1.25 million in funding to create 82 new trades places at Algonquin College's Ottawa, Pembroke campuses

**Ottawa, December 5, 2008** – More than 80 students in Pembroke and Ottawa will benefit from training in highly-marketable trades starting next fall, thanks to more than \$1.2 million in funding to Algonquin College from the Province of Ontario.

\$726,000 in funding will create 48 places for students in the Mechanical Technician / Tool Making program at the College's Woodroffe campus, and \$522,932 will fund 34 students in Automotive Technical / Motive Power Technician program in Pembroke.

"This is welcome news," said Algonquin College President Robert Gillett. "Our region needs skilled trades people desperately, and this funding will allow us to begin to address the growing skills gap in Ontario."

The innovative programs combine traditional apprenticeships, co-op education, and diplomas to graduate tradespeople who are skilled, experienced – and highly employable.

"Our program has a 100 per cent graduation rate – and a 100 per cent employment rate," says Rick Lacelle, coordinator of the mechanical technician / tool making program. "We already have employers inquiring about our upcoming graduates."

"Algonquin College is giving our students a competitive edge in their field through the Co-op Diploma Apprenticeship Program," said Jim Watson, MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

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### About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation's Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is one of the largest colleges in Ontario. Algonquin is a leader in the integration of technology into all aspects of learning. Algonquin College has a diverse population of more than 16,000 fulltime students in more than 140 programs and is committed to student success.

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## **Mechanical Technician – Toolmaking, Woodroffe Campus**

This two-year diploma program is designed to train student apprentices for a career in Tool and Die Making or General Machinist. Graduates are trained in the use of all standard manual machine tools: lathes, vertical and horizontal milling machines, surface and cylindrical grinders and jig bore. They are also trained in computer aided drafting and design (CADD) and computer aided manufacturing (CAM). Students produce multiple projects on both manual and computer numerical control (CNC) machines.

In levels one and two, student apprentices will learn basic hand tool skills on the bench and machining techniques required to set up and operate all standard manual machine tools. Students will manufacture these parts and assemblies from industry level engineering drawings and instructions from the professor. Also in level two, student apprentices will receive an introduction to and basic manual programming of a CNC vertical machining center. Student apprentices will also receive an additional course from the Co-op department on resume writing and interview skills.

The third level is a 16-week paid co-op work term with an approved employer. Students will be officially signed up as General Machinist apprentices before starting the work term. (While every effort will be made to ensure the employment of student apprentices, Algonquin College does not guarantee a placement).

During levels four and five, student apprentices will use a variety of software applications to design, model and produce parts on high speed CNC vertical machining centers and a CNC lathe. Also during these levels, student apprentices will have to complete two online business entrepreneurial courses.

Upon graduation student apprentices will have completed all of the in-school training required for the trade of General Machinist. Apprentices will receive the Algonquin College two year technician diploma and the Apprenticeship Training Certificate for the trade of General Machinist as well.

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## **Motive Power Technician, Pembroke Campus**

Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley's Motive Power Technician apprentice co-op diploma program is designed to give students the skills and experience they need to start their career in the automotive industry.

This year-and-a-half program allows students to complete all three required levels of the Automotive Service Technician Apprenticeship curriculum, earn a college diploma, and gain valuable work experience through a paid cooperative education placement in the summer semester.

While on campus, students learn the fundamentals of automotive mechanics including fuel and electrical systems, vehicle chassis, internal combustion engines, and fuel management systems. In addition, students receive training in communication skills, technology, health and safety, and small business. This training, coupled with the practical experience gained through the paid co-operative placement in the summer semester, will provide the students with the skills to launch their automotive careers.

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