

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Algonquin College's Proposal for a New Ottawa Valley Campus  
Receives over \$1 million in Pledges**

**Pembroke, ON, November 5, 2008** - The Capital Campaign for a new Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley campus in downtown Pembroke exceeded \$1 million in pledges today. This announcement was made during a televised town hall meeting regarding the progress towards securing funding and approval to build a new 80,000 square foot campus.

"On behalf of the entire college community I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the individuals and organizations who have contributed to this capital campaign," says Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College. "This pledge demonstrates the outstanding community support for the proposed new Algonquin College Campus in Pembroke."

The hour-long town hall meeting, recorded by 'A' Television, included discussions on the proposal, including the location, the need for a new campus, the benefits of building a modern facility, and the work that has been done to build community partnerships in support of the proposal.

Algonquin College has requested \$26 million in government funding to build a state-of-the-art facility along Pembroke's waterfront, adjacent to the city's downtown. The new campus would provide a number of benefits including: expanded access to full-time post-secondary and apprenticeship programs; enhanced learning experiences for students with leading-edge classrooms, labs, recreational facilities, and green space; and a revitalized downtown Pembroke with new business opportunities which will strengthen the local economy.

Enrollment at Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley hit an all-time high this fall with more than 715 full-time students studying at the campus. When operational the new facility would increase enrollments by over 300 full-time students annually.

"A new campus is necessary to meet the government's access and capacity agenda and address the region's workforce and training demands," adds Gillett. "This new campus proposal will help ensure we have the appropriate facilities, equipment and personnel to accommodate the growing demand for our programs."

The entire town hall meeting will be broadcast this Saturday, November 8, at 6:30 p.m., on 'A' Television. The broadcast will be available on Cable 6, Channel 5 in Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley regions, and on Bell ExpressVu 209 and Star Choice 342.

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**For more information, contact:**

Jamie Bramburger, Manager  
Community and Student Affairs  
Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley  
Email: [brambuj@algonquincollege.com](mailto:brambuj@algonquincollege.com)  
Phone: 613-735-4700, ext. 2756  
Website: [www.algonquincollege.com/pembrokenewcampus](http://www.algonquincollege.com/pembrokenewcampus)

315 Pembroke St., East

Pembroke, Ontario

K8A 3K2

Community

and Student

Affairs

Department

Office: 613-735-4700

ext. 2756

Fax: 613-735-8805