

Algonquin College hosts Canada's largest Corporate and Community Social Responsibility Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 23, Ottawa –Some of the nation's most prominent business leaders gathered at Algonquin College today to participate in Canada's largest Corporate and Community Social Responsibility Conference (CCSR), where they discussed various aspects related to the triple bottom line: Planet, Profit and People.

"We know that sustainability is an important issue to our students and our community, but the hundreds in attendance today tell us that there is a hunger for this type of conversation," says Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College.

More than 700 attendees packed Algonquin College for the opportunity to hear from over 50 speakers during this one-day gathering that featured guest speakers, a tradeshow exhibiting social enterprises and non-profit organizations focused on the triple bottom line, and an awards program honouring leaders in sustainability.

Dan Fortin, President of IBM Canada, was a keynote speaker during the awards evening. He underlined the need for corporations to move beyond traditional definitions of corporate responsibility to ensure that they are a force for positive change – for our communities and our planet. Mr. Fortin also accepted the Corporate Social Responsibility Award, which was presented to IBM Canada for an exceptional commitment to advancing the core values of social responsibility.

Award recipients included:

- Sheila-Watt Cloutier - Community Social Responsibility Award
- IBM Canada – Corporate Social Responsibility Award
- Causeway Work Centre - Social Innovation Enterprise Award
- Leonard Lee and Frank O'Dea - Social Entrepreneur Award
- Several Ottawa-area students - Students Social Entrepreneur Award

Algonquin was the driving force behind the conference, but it wouldn't have been possible without strong support from four other academic institutions including the Telfer School of Management/University of Ottawa, Sprott School of Business/Carleton University, La Cité Collégiale, and Red River College in Manitoba.

"Part of our responsibility for caring for our students is caring for the environment," says Robert Gillett. "We are in a unique position to lead by example and provide our students with a model of a caring institution so they may go into the workforce as socially responsible individuals."

Notable guest speakers at the event included:

- Dan Fortin, President, IBM Canada
- Moya Greene, CEO of Canada Post;
- Frank O'Dea, Co-Founder, Second Cup;
- Leonard Lee, Chairman, Lee Valley Tools Ltd;
- Larry O'Brien, Mayor, City of Ottawa, and
- Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Inuit Environmental Activist.

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