

## Algonquin College sets construction date for new Pembroke Campus

### For Immediate Release

**Pembroke, ON, June 5, 2009** - In front of a crowd of community supporters and business leaders, Algonquin College President Robert Gillett announced the target date of April 1st, 2011 for bulldozers to begin breaking ground on the College's new Ottawa Valley campus. In a symbolic gesture noting the project's steady march toward completion, President Gillett presented Pembroke Mayor Ed Jacyno with a toy bulldozer with the dates of groundbreaking and opening of the new Pembroke campus emblazoned on its sides.

"Let there be no confusion on the future of the Pembroke campus. In April of 2011, Algonquin College will break ground on a brand new waterfront campus", said President Gillett. "With the community's continued support, the fall of 2012 will see the College increase its capacity by over 40%, further deepening the impact Algonquin has on the economic vitality of Pembroke, Petawawa and all of Renfrew and Pontiac Counties."

President Gillett also paid tribute to Premier McGuinty and Prime Minister Harper's governments for recent investments in post-secondary education through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program. "With almost \$80 million in provincial and federal funding for the College's expansion projects, these governments have shown exceptional leadership on the education front and a strong commitment to Algonquin College."

While the College did not receive funding for its Pembroke campus in this round of stimulus funding, the Algonquin College Board of Governors has committed the funding required to begin construction of the Pembroke campus. The College remains hopeful that both the Provincial and Federal governments will see value in investing financially in the Pembroke campus at some future date.

Applications at the Pembroke campus are at an all-time high, and are expected to continue to grow over the next several years. The limited space in the nearly 100-year-old facility has required the College to put enrolment caps on high-demand programs such as health care and skilled trades. Renfrew County residents are now looking elsewhere for post-secondary education because the campus has reached capacity.

The new campus, appropriately named Renaissance Square, will address the education, economic development, and community needs of Renfrew County. Among other benefits, the new facility will result in:

- Increased access to post-secondary education for rural residents;
- Revitalization of Pembroke's historic downtown;
- Short and long-term job creation;
- Increased tourism potential for Renfrew County.

At a price tag of \$36 million, the proposed 91,000-square-foot facility will house state-of-the-art learning environments for skilled trades, health care and hospitality education, and will create a minimum of 300 new full-time spaces, bringing the full-time enrolment to over 1,000 students.

"Today's announcement is a tribute to the efforts of the community support received to date", noted Karen Davies, Dean of Algonquin's Pembroke Campus. "With more than \$1.3 million in pledges, we are halfway to our goal of raising \$2.5 million in community contributions and ensuring our Renfrew and Pontiac Counties have the skilled workforce required for future success."

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1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations

and Communications

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610

“The College wishes to thank the efforts of all those who have steadfastly supported this project. To College Board member Fred Blackstein and his Board of Governors colleagues, Mayor Jacyno and Pembroke city council, county Mayors and Reeves, local businesses and community leaders and of course our friends at CFB Petawawa, among many others – thank you. While considerable work remains to be done, Algonquin is resolute in its commitment to start construction in the spring of 2011 and open the doors to a new campus in 2012”, concluded President Gillett.

For more information regarding the Pembroke expansion visit <http://www.algonquincollege.com/pembrokenewcampus/>

**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](http://www.algonquincollege.com).

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**For more information, contact:**

Jamie Bramburger, Manager, Community and Student Affairs  
Algonquin College  
(613) 735-4700 ext. 2756  
[brambuj@algonquincollege.com](mailto:brambuj@algonquincollege.com)

1385 Woodroffe Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
K2G 1V8

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ext. 7664  
Fax: 613-727-7610



Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College (pictured left) presents Pembroke Mayor Ed Jacyno with a toy bulldozer with the dates of groundbreaking and opening of the new Pembroke campus emblazoned on its sides.