

Electrical Contractors' Association of Ottawa pledge \$250,000 to Algonquin College's capital campaign for new trades centre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 20, Ottawa – The atmosphere was electric at Algonquin College's Woodroffe Campus as the Electrical Contractors' Association of Ottawa (ECAO) gave a boost to Algonquin's Constructing Our Future Campaign with a \$250,000 pledge.

"We would like to thank the ECAO for this generous pledge," said Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College. "This demonstrates the community's support for the Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence and the importance of training skilled workers."

Although the campaign has not yet been officially launched, pledges like this one continue to come in and the momentum is steadily building.

"We are happy to support this project because there is a critical need for skilled trades today and that need is expected to continue to skyrocket in the near future," says John Hyndman, President of the ECAO. "This new centre will allow Algonquin to continue to produce job-ready graduates with the skills to meet the demands of the modern construction site."

The Constructing Our Future Campaign has set a goal of raising \$7 million for the \$79-million construction project of the Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence slated to open in 2011. Once completed, the centre will add 600 new construction trades spaces and become home to a total of 2,500 cross-disciplined full-time students and 5,000 part-time registrants as it will bring together all of the College's trades, design and building sciences programs and research into one creative cluster.

An integrated learning approach will be used in the training of several professional disciplines including architecture, interior design, engineering technology, the building trades, and research. Collaboration, problem-solving, project based learning and teamwork are fundamentals of these programs.

Built to LEED Gold standards, the Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence will be a model for sustainable construction practices and innovative curriculum design and delivery. The centre will be a 152,000 square foot, state-of-the-art building for construction trades training. The centre and its functional systems will serve as learning aids, respond to the academic needs of its occupants, and teach the importance of building a better future.

The new building will also be an architecturally significant landmark as it will be uniquely integrated with the renewed Baseline Transit hub and be the focal point of the Centrepointe commercial district development.

"With good people, a team approach and hard work, we can accomplish anything," said Dwight Brown, Chair of the Constructing our Future Campaign; Vice President and District Manager of PCL Constructors Canada Inc.; and Chairman of the Ottawa Construction Association. "This industry must invest in its people to develop a strong future."

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For more information please visit <http://algonquincollege.com/expansion/woodroffe.htm>

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