

New Algonquin College Campus in Perth: Federal and Provincial governments announce \$9 million in funding

For Immediate Release

Perth, ON, May 29, 2009 – Algonquin College's Perth Campus was buzzing with excitement today as Scott Reid, Member of Parliament for Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington; and Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean, Jim Watson announced a combined \$9-million investment to rebuild the campus. The announcement was welcomed with cheers by students and staff at the College as well as by members of the local community.

"This very welcome announcement demonstrates the commitment of both the federal and provincial governments to the economic sustainability of rural communities and to training the next generation of Canada's skilled workforce," said Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College.

The total cost of this project is \$10 million and the provincial government has committed \$4.8 million with the federal government providing an additional \$4.2 million. Algonquin College and the Students' Association will provide the remaining \$1 million.

"There are few things more important than helping young people learn, and the provincial government is pleased to support the continued expansion of Algonquin College," said Watson. "Algonquin College is a great institution and is a significant part of the fabric of Ottawa and Eastern Ontario."

"Algonquin College is an important partner in building a strong future in Eastern Ontario," said local MP Scott Reid. "Our Government is pleased to support improvements to the Perth campus of the College, while at the same time we are creating jobs, stimulating our economy, and investing in our future."

The limitations of the current campus has forced the college to limit the number of students in high-demand programs such as health care and the skilled trades, driving Lanark County residents to look outside of the community for post-secondary education.

"We are thrilled at this news," says Linda Cooke, Acting Dean of the Perth Campus. "This new building will provide a shot in the arm to the economies of Perth and Lanark County and will allow the Algonquin College Heritage Institute to continue to be a hub for training and education in this community."

With this funding the college is set to begin construction on a 30,000 square-foot building, which will be LEED-certified, and will built at the same location, adjacent to the current building. The new building will house state-of-the-art learning environments for the skilled trades, health care and hospitality education, and will create 100 new full-time student spaces.

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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 new building will also address the education, economic development, and community needs of Lanark County. Among other benefits, the new facility will provide:

- Increased access to education for rural residents;
- A central hub for historical research;
- Short and long-term job creation;
- Increased tourism potential for Lanark County.

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.

-30-

For more information, contact:

David Hall
Communications Officer
Algonquin College
(613) 727-4723 ext. 2091
Cell: (613) 220-7796

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