

## **Small World, Big Picture – Expedition Africa Project Launch**

**Ottawa, ON., September 14, 2006** – The Small World, Big Picture – Expedition Africa Project was officially launched at Algonquin College on Thursday, September 14, with a video link with Ben Webster, expedition leader, from Cairo, Egypt. The Small World, Big Picture – Expedition Africa Project will traverse the continent of Africa from Egypt to South Africa. This expedition is designed to actively engage Canadian school-aged students, their teachers and their families with respect to the Continent of Africa, its opportunities, challenges and people.

“Algonquin College is the post-secondary leader in our community, if not all of Ontario, with respect to the integration of technology in the learning environment,” says Kent MacDonald, Executive Director of Algonquin’s Strategy and Business Development Division. “This project allows the College to cooperate more closely with our educational partners and leverage satellite, telecom and computer technology to bring a new and unique way of learning into classrooms across Ontario.”

Algonquin College has worked closely with district school board educators across Ontario to develop curriculum for classroom delivery and for any teachers to develop learning materials to support their respective curriculum. The school boards that have incorporated this expedition into their curriculum include:

- Ottawa Carleton Catholic District School Board
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- Renfrew County Catholic District School Board
- York District School Board
- Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board

Other organizations involved in this innovative project include A-Channel, Addison on Bay, Algonquin College Student’s Association, Canadian Adventure Productions, Canadian International Development Agency, City TV, City of Ottawa, Ottawa Sun, Toronto Hydro Telecom and African governments.

The educational and technological lessons learned during the Everest climb are being utilized and enhanced to provide a multi-layered educational opportunity for Ontario school children to learn about Africa.

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“The Small World, Big Picture – Expedition Africa Project will build upon the Everest project to engage thousands of Ontario school children to effectively ensure challenges and opportunities related to Africa will be top-of-mind in young Canadians for years to come,” says Ben Webster, Expedition Leader and President of Canadian Adventure Productions Inc. “The expedition team and I look forward to our adventure which involves telling the African story to Ontario students and beyond using leading-edge multi-media technology.”

Algonquin College prides itself on the integration of technology into its learning landscape, and through the use of leading-edge technology, the College is helping bring the African landscape to schools across Ontario. The technologically-enhanced web site allows people around the world to follow the expedition. This site will have relevant text, pictures, and video of the expedition as it proceeds through Africa. It will allow visitors to monitor the movement of the expedition team in real time through satellite Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, learn about the respective African countries, and actively engage students through pedagogically advanced learning material.

“The benefits of being involved in this project for Algonquin is that we are working closer with some of the most progressive and innovative educators in Canada,” says MacDonald. “In addition, we have a unique opportunity, through our Website, to demonstrate to people around the world that the programs, services, staff and faculty at Algonquin College are also some of the most progressive and innovative in Canada.”

The Small World, Big Picture – Expedition Africa Project Web Site:  
**[www.algonquincollege.com/africa](http://www.algonquincollege.com/africa)**

**About Algonquin College:**

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation’s Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is the third-largest college in Ontario. Algonquin is the leader in the integration of technology into the learning landscape. Algonquin College has a diverse population of nearly 16,000 full-time students and 35,000 part-time registrations in more than 140 programs and is committed to student success.

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