

Algonquin College's Leading-Edge Trades Centre Proposal Emphasizes "Green" Learning

Ottawa, ON, July 16, 2007 – A focus on teaching environmentally friendly and sustainable design principles is at the forefront of Algonquin College's proposal for a Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences (CCTBS) facility.

This \$69 million LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum - certified facility will implement a "green" building mandate by setting and attaining specific energy, atmosphere, water, indoor environmental quality, land-use and environmentally friendly materials objectives.

"Learning in a LEED-Platinum certified facility will heighten students' environmental awareness and instill the skills and passion for sustainable design across the construction sector," says Morris Uremovich, Executive Dean of Algonquin's Faculty of Technology and Trades. "The CCTBS will ensure that new graduates are well-oriented to the multi-disciplinary nature of the construction workplace. It will also provide re-skilling opportunities for current construction trades and building sciences workers in the use of new, environmentally efficient techniques and materials."

This would be the only facility in Canada that will teach "green"-specific trades skills. The CCTBS will provide a venue for students to learn the unique skill sets required for the rapidly-evolving construction industry.

The curricula delivered in this facility will include modules on "green" design and the faculty will deliver their programs in environmentally conscious ways. All building and design courses will be housed in this "living laboratory" as the structural components will be exposed and the smart technologies operating the facility will be utilized for lab and research purposes.

"The Centre will provide a venue for conducting leading-edge applied research which will promote innovation in the area of new building technologies consistent with sustainable design practices," adds Uremovich.

The CCTBS will act as a catalyst for the revision of Algonquin's current curricula for programs which prepare workers of the building design and construction industry. Not only will programs with a common focus be able to share resources and reduce duplication of facilities and resources, but they will be able to work collaboratively and understand the integration of the various disciplines as they prepare to contribute to multi-disciplinary teams in the workplace.

The CCTBS will be a model of sustainable design that brings to life the College's building design and sciences and trades curricula while promoting healthy, environmentally responsive and sustainable construction principles and the professional knowledge required to advance them.

About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation's Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is the fourth-largest college in Ontario. Algonquin is a leader in the integration of technology into learning. Algonquin College has a diverse population of nearly 16,000 full-time students and more than 39,000 part-time registrations in more than 140 programs and is committed to student success. For more information please visit www.algonquincollege.com.

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For more information, contact:

Andrew McKelvey
Communications Officer
Algonquin College
(613) 727-4723 ext. 5450
Cell: (613) 220-7796

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations

and Communications

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610