

Algonquin College Board of Governors strongly endorses new building projects in Pembroke, Perth

"It's now our expectation that the province and the communities will work with the college to ensure success," says President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 12, Ottawa – On November 10 the Board of Governors of Algonquin College passed two motions supporting major capital projects – a new campus in downtown Pembroke and a new building in Perth – strongly reaffirming Algonquin's commitment to college education in the Ottawa Valley.

"We have had a four-decade-long tradition of education in the Ottawa Valley that we are very proud of. We cannot continue to occupy our current facilities in Perth and Pembroke and meet the demand for student access or the demand for programs and services from our existing student body," said President Robert Gillett. "The Board had a clear decision to make – end programs and become an Ottawa-based college, or commit to providing the appropriate rural campuses in the Ottawa Valley. With this motion, our Board has provided very clear direction with regard to growing for the future,"

The larger of the two projects is the relocation of the Pembroke campus of Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley to a new waterfront site closer to the centre of the city. Land for the site is currently owned by the City of Pembroke. The motion approved the construction of the new campus with a total price tag of \$36 million, which includes a pledge of \$4 million from the Algonquin College Students' Association. The Pembroke project is scheduled to be completed by fall 2012 and allow the campus to grow from 700 students to approximately 1,000. A Renfrew County community capital campaign has already garnered more than \$1 million in pledges for a new Pembroke campus.

The second project is a new main building for Algonquin's Perth campus. Earlier this year, the existing building was discovered to have some deficiencies in its roof structure that would render a major renovation impractical. The Perth project has a budget of \$8-10 million, and the motion directs a completion date of fall 2011.

These projects are part of a \$200-million capital plan for the college which includes a Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences, a Healthy Community Initiatives building, a Student Commons, renovation of vacated space, as well as the creation of a virtual campus.

"Algonquin College is dedicated to providing the best possible educational experience for all of its students, and new campuses in Perth and Pembroke will help do that," said President Robert Gillett. "The Board's motion is a strong endorsement of our continued presence in the Ottawa Valley."

In the motions, the Board directed the administration of the college to vigorously seek funding support for the projects from the province and elsewhere to minimize any necessary borrowing.

The president pointed out that the provincial government has made access to post-secondary education a priority in order to create the skilled workers of the future. "The motions passed by our Board shows their commitment to providing access to education for both rural and urban students. It's now our expectation that the province and the communities will work with the college to ensure the success of these projects," said Gillett.

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Wording of the motion:

a. The Board of Governors approve the construction of a new campus for the Ottawa Valley on the waterfront land donated by the City of Pembroke, at a cost of approximately \$36M which includes the \$4M committed by the Students' Association, to be completed by Fall 2012.

b. The Board of Governors approve the construction of a new main building at the Perth Campus, at a cost between \$8M-\$10M, to be completed by the Fall of 2011.

and

c. In approving these two motions, the Board directs administration to work with the Provincial Government and all other funding sources to minimize the amount of borrowing which would be required to complete the two projects.

Information on the new campus can be found at:

<http://www.algonquincollege.com/pembrokenewcampus/>

High-resolution illustrations of the proposed campus are available on request.

About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation's Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is one of the largest colleges 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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