

Algonquin College breaks ground on new “Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence”

Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College

“We are tremendously excited to have this project officially underway and we couldn’t have done it without the support from the entire College Community as well as all levels of government,” says Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College. “This new facility will not only help to address the skills shortage in the construction industry, it will be a showcase of green construction and training in Eastern Ontario.”

“This will be a truly memorable, green facility,” adds Gillett. “The Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence will be visually and functionally different as it aims to be the largest building in Canada to meet the exacting standards for Platinum LEED status.”

“We have the support we asked for from all levels of government and construction industry is now stepping in and providing the final piece of funding for this project,” says Gillett. “Our campaign is steadily building momentum, and today’s \$1 million pledge by Roger Greenberg, CEO of Minto Group Inc., is also a significant milestone as it is the largest individual gift in the history of Algonquin College.”

John Baird, MP Ottawa West-Nepean, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities

“This project has been at the top of my list as Algonquin’s local Member of Parliament,” said Minister John Baird. “Through our \$35 million federal investment in the new skilled trades centre, we are putting more trades people to work to help create jobs and stimulate our local economy right here in the City of Ottawa.”

Jim Watson, MPP for Ottawa West – Nepean and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

“The construction of this exciting new facility at Algonquin College will produce jobs and provide important economic stimulus for Ottawa and Eastern Ontario,” said Jim Watson, MPP for Ottawa West – Nepean and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Once the centre is completed, Algonquin College will be at the leading edge of Construction and Skilled Trades training, and will produce the skilled trades leaders of tomorrow. The Province of Ontario is pleased to contribute \$35 Million to this forward thinking initiative.”

Larry O’Brien, Mayor, City of Ottawa

“Today’s ground-breaking demonstrates the commitment of Algonquin College and all three levels of government to continually improve education and transportation,” said Mayor Larry O’Brien. “The Southwest Transitway work at Baseline Station is an example of our long-term plan for sustainable transit that will support our community in years to come.”

Rick Chiarelli, City Councillor

“Four years ago the Algonquin ACCE building, the re-design of the CentrepoinTE Community, the Pedestrian Safety bridge over Woodroffe, the new City Archives and the redesign of Baseline area transit were all proceeding as separate projects without integration,” said Rick Chiarelli, City Councillor, College Ward. “The smartest thing we ever did was to see the power in working together and in the amazing synergies available to us.”

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The community made it all work and they were the magnet that helped to pull everyone together to achieve double the value for taxpayers."

Michael Leckman, Principal, Diamond & Schmitt Architects

"On top of this 'super green' construction will be a roof comprised of grass-like vegetation and knee-high plants that will look like a green meadow once construction is completed," says Michael Leckman, Principal, Diamond & Schmitt Architects. "This will add campus greenspace and help with insulation, lowering the demands on the heating and cooling systems.

Mark Fazio, Vice President and Area Manager, EllisDon Corp.

"This building will be an architectural landmark in Ottawa's west-end and will be the focal point of the CentrepoinTE redevelopment project," says Mark Fazio, Vice President and Area Manager, EllisDon Corp.

Roger Greenberg, Chairman and CEO, Minto Group; and Honorary Chair, Constructing Our Future Campaign

"Education is a cornerstone of a strong community and an integral part of its overall success. A successful community includes high quality post-secondary schools – like Algonquin College – as well as hospitals, sports, arts and entertainment. Such a vibrant community in turn facilitates the success of local companies, including Minto. We feel privileged to be able to contribute to development of the skilled and educated workforce of tomorrow."

Dwight Brown, Chair, Constructing Our Future Campaign

"It is an honour to be part of the Constructing Our Future campaign, assisting Algonquin in expanding its ability to train the next generation of construction and design professionals. This new Centre will help attract the best and the brightest making the construction industry a first-choice career destination."

For more information please visit:

www.algonquincollege.com/expansion

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