

## **Algonquin College commends province for pro-education budget**

*Stresses importance of rural development*

**Ottawa, March 26, 2008** – Algonquin College President Robert Gillett says the Ontario budget is a good one for colleges, education, and the province.

"I'm glad to see the province investing approximately \$240 million in college infrastructure projects over each of the next two years," said Gillett. "With the ongoing demand for skilled workers and the demand for spaces at colleges, this investment is very much needed."

Algonquin College has a number of projects ready to begin, most notably a \$10-million building project for its Perth campus and a \$32-million project which would see the college's Pembroke campus relocate to a new downtown location.

"Projects like those being planned at our Perth and Pembroke campuses are a perfect fit with the investments in capital infrastructure announced in the budget. These projects will strongly support economic renewal in these rural communities," said Gillett.

Gillett says the need for infrastructure investment is particularly acute at Algonquin, where student demand has increased faster than anticipated at both its Ottawa campus and its two Valley campuses.

"The inclusion of \$10-million in funding for applied research at colleges and the investment of nearly \$50 million in cooperative education and apprenticeship tax credits are also good news for the college, but more importantly for students and for employers," said Gillett.

The president also noted that the exemption of books from the proposed harmonized provincial sales tax could help reduce costs for students.

"Ontario's colleges are a key driver for the province's long-term plans for growth. Our students are the province's next generation of skilled workers. It can only be good news when the government invests in them," said Gillett. "Investment in a skilled workforce is the only way Ontario can ensure its long-term competitiveness."

**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](http://www.algonquincollege.com).

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**For more information, contact:**

David Hall, Communications Officer, Algonquin College  
(613) 727-4723 ext. 2091  
Cell: (613) 220-7796  
Email: [david.hall@algonquincollege.com](mailto:david.hall@algonquincollege.com)

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations

and Communications

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610