

Sustainability took front-and-centre at Algonquin College's first World Café

For Immediate Release

Ottawa, March 9, 2009 – Students, staff, faculty and members of the public gathered at Algonquin College today to take part in a World Café where the main discussion question was: what should sustainable development should look like at Algonquin? Participants were asked to provide their thoughts about the long-term vision of sustainability at the College, and outline the actions required to achieve this vision.

"We were very pleased to see the level of turnout today because community participation is critical to the success of our sustainability planning," says Mark Hoddenbagh, Co-Chair Sustainable Algonquin Committee. "Sustainability reaches beyond the walls of Algonquin's Campuses so it is important to hear from both the internal and external communities."

The information and opinions gathered at today's event will be used to help the college's sustainability committee create a made-in-Algonquin sustainability strategy that will address this issue today, during the next 5 years, and in the decades to come.

Some common ideas included eliminating bottled-water on campus, creating a greater awareness of power conservation, and the idea that the College should not own any traditional combustion engines by 2035.

"These cafés are the latest step in a journey towards a more sustainable future," says Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College. "Here at Algonquin we have invested \$6 million in energy saving initiatives, discontinued the cosmetic use of chemical pesticides, and were the first Canadian College to sign the [Talloires Declaration](#)."

Algonquin is also incorporating sustainability into the curriculum offering programs specializing in, or including elements of, the importance of sustainability. For example, Algonquin College offers Canada's only Green Business Management Graduate Certificate program that trains students to be agents-of-change to lead businesses to understand that sustainability has a positive effect on the bottom-line.

"We are a sustainability leader in the Canadian post-secondary system," says Mr. Gillett. "We will continue to develop programs that reflect this and take further steps to reduce our carbon footprint on the environment." Sustainability is a key component of the College's current [2008 – 2013 Strategic Plan](#).

For more information regarding Algonquin College's sustainability initiatives and information regarding the World Cafés please go to: <http://algonquincollege.com/sustainable/> .

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.

-30-

For more information, contact:

David Hall
Communications Officer
Algonquin College
(613) 727-4723 ext. 2091
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