

Local City Councillors throw support behind Algonquin College's Family Health Centre application Urge Council to support long-term community health vision

Ottawa, August 16, 2010 - City Councillors Rick Chiarelli and Gord Hunter were joined by healthcare professionals and educators to announce their support for Algonquin College's application to become home to one of the province's newest Family Health Teams.

Together, Chiarelli and Hunter will table a motion September 16 at the City's Community and Protective Services Committee, calling City Council to write the Provincial Government requesting it establish one of its 30 new Family Health Teams at Algonquin College.

"Councillors Chiarelli and Hunter are long-time supporters of Algonquin College and we want to thank them for their leadership and support of this west end Family Health Team initiative," says Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College. "With their support, these Councillors recognize the need for increased and improved healthcare for students, seniors, and the entire Centrepointe community."

When complete, the Family Health Team model will integrate several health services into one easily accessible location available in person or online, providing students and local residents with access to high quality health care and health prevention services.

"The Algonquin College Family Health Centre will provide a one-stop shop that is accessible not just to students but the entire Baseline/Woodroffe community," explains Kim Tysick, Executive Dean, School of Health and Community Studies. "This pulling together of health services will go a long way to help seniors, students, new Canadians, and the broader communities maintain a healthy, productive, sustainable life."

Family Health Teams are health care organizations that include a team of family physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, social workers, dietitians, and other professionals, working together to provide health care for their community. Perhaps most unique will be the living lab component which will allow college students enrolled in health programs to gain valuable on the job skills while serving the community. Family Health Teams provide a wide range of health services, especially important for people who don't have a doctor.

Family Health Teams ensure that people receive the care they need in their communities, as each team is set-up based on local health and community needs. They focus on chronic disease management, disease prevention and health promotion, and work with other health care organizations, such as public health units and Community Care Access Centres.

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