

**Algonquin College tables final report focused on  
expansion and new opportunities****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 21, 2010 OTTAWA** – Following the latest round of extensive internal and external consultation, Algonquin has released the most comprehensive report in the College’s history, identifying programs and services it believes need to be added, expanded, maintained, revised, phased out, or phased out with transition to new opportunity.

The final report, entitled “Embracing Change, Ready to Act”, recommends 51 new programs the College would like to introduce, 26 to expand, 9 to phase out with transition to new opportunity, and 11 to phase out.

The goal of the Strategic Programs and Service Planning (SPSP) Project is to prioritize programs and services in order to more closely align the activities of the College with its Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Strategic Plan, while positioning the College to meet the needs of students and prepare for the future.

“This report positions the college to ensure we continue to grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of the learners and communities we serve,” explains Kent MacDonald, Vice President Academic, Algonquin College.

Four clear directions for the College emerged from the findings of the SPSP Project including,

- ensuring learning is the College’s the top priority;
- a deep commitment to student success by all members of the Algonquin College community;
- a focus on relevant, high-quality programs and services; and
- a focus on processes of continuous improvement.

“These improvements will allow Algonquin to focus on increasing retention, student success, graduation rates, and address the needs of diverse learners,” explains MacDonald. “We are also looking to leverage technology to provide greater access and flexibility to our student support services in a way that provides better service while realizing financial benefits as we reduce duplication and overlap of our service efforts.”

Last month, the College released the first draft of this report and hosted a number of in-person and online consultation sessions aimed at generating feedback from staff, faculty, students, alumni, and external stakeholders. All of the feedback was captured and considered while writing the final report released today.

It is estimated that over a 1,000 faculty and staff participated in the SPSP Project process, which included multiple town hall meetings, departmental feedback sessions, and online forums. Hundreds of current students also participated, submitting over 60 different ideas for improvement to existing and new programs and services.

The College also heard from more than 100 external stakeholders including neighbours, business owners, research agencies, and trade associations. Several renewed their commitment to partner with the College in order to improve current programs and build new ones that better fit the needs of prospective students, employers, and the college.

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“Industry told us that they are counting on Algonquin to provide the skilled workforce they need to grow their business and serve our community,” says MacDonald. “We also heard that some of our programs are in need of revision and this report is an honest attempt to address those needs.”

The College was extremely encouraged by this outpouring of support, including industry leaders from horticulture, manufacturing, fine arts, computer science, and photonics who stepped forward with offers of support and partnership.

The most noticeable change between Draft and Final Reports was the revision of 9 programs to a new status entitled “Phase Out for Transition to New Opportunity.” Programs in this category do not meet the relevant criteria for continuation but there is strong evidence of related opportunities. Although the current programs will be phased out, implementation plans will closely examine the potential for the development of new programs in the same field.

“We look forward to continuing to work with our students, faculty, and industry partners to look at developing new programs that reflect the changing needs of the industry. This entire process is about increasing access to the College and meeting the demand,” explains MacDonald.

No current students will be impacted by any of the proposed changes. Programs in the Phase Out category will continue to run as scheduled to ensure that each registered student is able to complete their program of study as anticipated.

This Final Report and recommendations will be presented to the Algonquin College Board of Governors at a special meeting scheduled for Monday, June 28, 5:00 p.m., Marketplace Food Court, ‘D’ Building, at the Woodroffe Campus. Groups or individuals interested in bringing forward new information will be asked to present to the Board at the special meeting.

To read the full report or to book a presentation time visit: [www.algonquincollege.com/planning](http://www.algonquincollege.com/planning).

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