

Algonquin College and Hydro One Address the Skills Shortages in the Electrical Delivery Sector

Ottawa, ON, November 29, 2007 - Algonquin College has signed an agreement with Hydro One to attract students into the electrical transmission and distribution utility sector in an effort to continue to address the skilled trades shortage in this industry. Hydro One has signed agreements with four colleges in the north, east, south and west of Ontario.

Hydro One will contribute up to \$3 million for scholarships, program development and equipment to Algonquin College (Ottawa, Ontario), Georgian College (Barrie, Ontario), Mohawk College (Hamilton, Ontario) and Northern College (Timmins, Ontario) for programs that will train students for technicians, technologists and trades positions in the sector.

“Algonquin College is pleased to work with Hydro One as we address the career-training needs of the communities we serve,” says Algonquin College President Robert Gillett. “This partnership is another example of Algonquin College’s leadership in continuing to provide quality instruction in areas that industry leaders, such as Hydro One, have identified as essential in today’s economy. It will help provide our graduates with the skills they need to be job-ready.”

“We are entering a period of significant demographic change in Hydro One and in this sector,” said Laura Formosa, Hydro One President and CEO. “Up to 30 per cent of our workforce is eligible for retirement in the next few years providing opportunities for people entering the workforce. Working with community colleges to train candidates for our trades is part of a comprehensive strategy to meet our staffing needs well into the future.”

In addition to scholarships and equipment donations, this multi-year initiative will include program development funding. The project will be managed by a Steering Committee with representatives from each of the four colleges and Hydro One.

“More than 200 students in the College’s Electrical Engineering Technician and Technology programs will benefit from this unique partnership,” says Morris Uremovich, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Technology and Trades. “Students have access to leading-edge equipment and facilities, as well as curricula that remains current through the involvement of academic program advisory committees.”

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Hydro One - 2**About Hydro One:**

Hydro One delivers electricity safely, reliably and responsibly to homes and businesses across the province of Ontario and owns and operates Ontario's 29,000 kilometre high-voltage transmission network that delivers electricity to large industrial customers and municipal utilities, and a 122,000 kilometre low-voltage distribution system that serves about 1.3 million end-use customers and smaller municipal utilities in the province. Hydro One is wholly owned by the Province of Ontario.

About Algonquin College:

Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology is located in the Nation's Capital and the Ottawa Valley and is one of the largest colleges in Ontario. Algonquin is a leader in the integration of technology into all aspects of learning. Algonquin College has a diverse population of more than 16,000 full-time students in more than 140 programs and is committed to student success. For more information please visit

www.algonquincollege.com.

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