

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Algonquin College Coordinates Lieutenant Governor's Book Drive in Perth

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 29, 2004 – The Perth Campus of Algonquin College is responding wholeheartedly to the Lieutenant Governor James K. Bartleman's appeal for used books for people in Ontario's North. And they are inviting all Perth area residents to join them.

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Mr. Bartleman has launched the Lieutenant Governor's Book Program to collect used books to stock school libraries serving First Nations in Ontario's north.

"On my visits to schools in Ontario's far north, I see lots of shelves but no books," says Mr. Bartleman, "Books can stimulate the imagination and open up new worlds for everyone. For many Aboriginal students in the far north, there is no access to bookstores or libraries. Books will lead them to want to carry on in school and build a more fulfilling life, rooted in their Aboriginal heritage but also in the wider world."

The students, faculty and staff of the Algonquin Heritage Institute have already begun collecting books of all sorts. "One of the teachers went through his woodworking texts and donated the ones he no longer needed," said Lisa Shaw-Verhoek, a professor in the Social Service Worker program. "They want everything from children's books to all types of books for adults."

The college hopes the people of Perth will join their efforts and bring used books to the Perth campus of Algonquin College where students and staff will pack them for shipment to the north. They will be accepting books until the end of March.

The Ontario Provincial Police detachments across the province are also making a major contribution to the project by arranging for delivery of the books.

"We would love to have a big load ready to go by mid-February," said Ms. Shaw-Verhoek, "because we could get it on the first shipment going in over the ice roads."

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