

**ALGONQUIN, NIAGARA COLLEGES TO OFFER  
BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PHOTONICS**

**OTTAWA, ON, Dec. 5, 2002** – Algonquin College and Niagara College have been given approval by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to deliver a Bachelor's degree program in Photonics, enabling both colleges to confer their graduates with applied degrees. Algonquin College's Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in Photonics will be introduced in September 2004.

“This Bachelor of Applied Technology in Photonics is an excellent opportunity for Algonquin to continue to be a key player in the economic development of the Ottawa region. We look forward to working closely with our partners in business and industry to further develop the workforce for this leading-edge technology,” says Morris Uremovich, Dean of Algonquin College's School of Advanced Technology.

Photonics – the generation and transmission of light – is an enabling technology used in a vast array of industries and applications. As an enabling technology, photonics has applications in virtually every industry sector: imaging technology, information technology, manufacturing, as well as applications in the rapidly-growing bio-photonics health area. The next generation telecommunications medium is photonics-based and will enable the transmission of the ultra-huge amounts of digital data required to satisfy the needs of the expanding economy.

“Both Algonquin and Niagara have played leading roles in photonics education in Ontario, and this degree, with its combined focus on theory and hands-on training, will further support the needs of an industry that is vital to the economic development of the Ottawa and Niagara regions, and the province of Ontario,” said Leo Tiberi, Director of the college's Communications and Information Technology division.

This degree is one of the only bachelor-level photonics programs in North America and will address the urgent need in the photonics industry for highly-skilled photonics employees in a wide variety of industries.

This joint program will fill a clear gap in photonics education, as it is aimed at producing highly qualified personnel required for Ontario to be competitive in this trillion dollar global industry. Graduates will be qualified to lead production teams or engage in research activities in the photonics industry.

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations,

Communications,

Alumni and

Development

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610



**Photonics Degree - 2**

Since 1999, Algonquin College and Niagara College have been working closely with Photonics Research Ontario (PRO), an Ontario Centre of Excellence, with the common goal of advancing photonics technology in Ontario. In 2001, the partners launched the Photonics Education and Training project, which included the creation of diploma programs at Algonquin College and Niagara College at the technologist and technician levels. The applied degree will complement these programs, and will take advantage of the state-of-the-art facilities, including optics, fibre-optics and laser laboratories that are already in place at both Algonquin and Niagara.

“PRO remains a strong supporter of the Ontario colleges’ photonics programs and we are delighted by this bold step forward,” said Dr. Gerard F. Lynch, President & CEO, Photonics Research Ontario. “Photonics will be an important economic driver of the Ontario economy over the next several decades and this educational investment will provide the stimulus to attract industry and investment to the Province as this new industrial sector expands.”

Algonquin College has approximately 13,000 full-time students in more than 120 programs and employs more than 3,000 full and part-time staff. Algonquin has an estimated \$155-million annual impact on the regional economy.

Niagara College has approximately 5,400 full-time students in more than 60 post-secondary and 10 post-graduate programs and employs more than 900 full and part-time staff. Niagara has an estimated \$125-million impact on the regional economy.

-30-

**For more information on this media release, contact:**

Dawn Dubé  
Director, Public Relations  
Algonquin College  
Tel: (613) 727-4723 ext. 5192  
Cell: 220-5291

Darrell Neufeld  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
Niagara College  
Tel: (905) 735-2211 ext. 7567

1385 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K2G 1V8

Public Relations,

Communications,

Alumni and

Development

Department

Office: 613-727-4723

ext. 7664

Fax: 613-727-7610