



communiqué

ALGONQUIN ALUMNUS WINS COLLEGE'S THIRD PREMIER'S AWARD IN FOUR YEARS

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Ottawa, February 19, 2002 - Algonquin alumnus Ken Anderson, former CIO of Canadian Blood Services and Mitel Corporation, has been honoured with an Ontario Premier's Award.

The Premier's Awards—six in total—are presented annually to Ontario college graduates whose achievements have improved the quality of life for Ontarians. The awards were established in 1992 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Ontario college system. Every college is invited to submit candidates in six categories: Technology; Business; Health Services; Applied Arts: Creative and Design; Applied Arts: Community Services; and, as of this year, Recent Graduate.

"I am absolutely delighted—and quite surprised," said Mr. Anderson. "I'm well aware of the calibre of the other nominees. Winning this award is truly an honour." adds Mr. Anderson. Mr. Anderson was presented with the Premier's Award in Technology by the Honourable Dianne Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, on Monday, February 18th in London, Ontario. The Alumni Association of Algonquin College will honour Mr. Anderson at the Alumni Association Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the Woodroffe Campus Main Dining Room.

Ken Anderson is the third Algonquin alumnus in four years to win a Premier's Award for Technology. Last year's winner was Algonquin alumnus Kirk Mandy, former CEO of Mitel Corporation; in 1998 it was alumnus Larry O'Brien, currently President and CEO of Calian. The recent win by Mr. Anderson further underscores the impact Algonquin graduates have not only on technology but also on business in general.

"Ken Anderson epitomizes the kind of person these awards celebrate—and who this college values," said Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College. "Ken is humble and kind as well as a consummate professional and leader in his field. It is a rare combination. We are proud to have him as an alumnus."

"Ken is one of those people who always wants to do more, to give more," said Sherry Thurig, President of the Algonquin College Alumni Association. "He is an excellent role model, not simply for students studying technology but for all college students and graduates."

After graduating from Algonquin's Electrical Engineering Technology program in 1973, Ken Anderson spent the next few years gaining a foothold in the rapidly growing computer industry. He joined Mitel in 1981, and there held several positions, eventually working his way up to Chief Information Officer (CIO). His efforts at Mitel were well recognized: in 1995, he was named *CIO of the Year* by CIO Magazine, Novell, and Hewlett Packard; in 1996 he won his first *Society of Computer and Office Automation Professionals (SCOAP) Award*.

In 1998, Mr. Anderson became CIO of Canadian Blood Services. Within months of joining the organization, he had completely revamped its information and tracking systems and made them Y2K-compliant. His work not only earned him a second *SCOAP* award in 2000, it also helped enhance the credibility of technology among his co-workers; the turnover rate for IT staff at Canadian Blood Services dropped from 40 percent to almost zero.

Mr. Anderson was also actively involved on the home front with his three children, participating in Beavers and Junior Achievement of Canada, and coaching children's hockey, baseball and soccer. He continues to influence the lives of young people as Chair of Algonquin's Board of Governors, and guest-lectures at Carleton University and the University of Victoria.

Mr. Anderson is emphatic about the impact of education on young people. "There's no question that Algonquin had an enormous influence on my life," he says. "In fact, it was an Algonquin professor who persuaded me not to study chemistry—as I had originally intended—but instead focus on technology. It turned out to be the right decision."

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