



Development Group Ltd.

"Greening Our Urban Environments"

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Minister Watson and Minister Baird:

I would like to express my support for the proposed Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences for Eastern Ontario to be built on Algonquin College's Woodroffe Campus.

It is evident that there are a number of key factors in the current workforce that underscore the need for an integrated learning environment to address the evolving knowledge and skill demands of the construction industries.

Based on an Environmental Scan prepared by Market Research Corporation in October 2006, the 10-15 year skilled trades shortage experienced by Ottawa, Pembroke and Perth continues today and is expected to worsen in the future, especially in Ottawa. The report specifically indicates a current labour shortage in Ottawa and area for carpenters, electricians, plumbers, dry-wallers, brick layers, architects and designers, among others.

Ottawa has been cited as the fastest-growing municipality in Ontario outside of the Greater Toronto Area, with immigration being one of the key factors. Ottawa is expected to grow by 18,000 people per year until 2011. Approximately 3,000 of the 18,000 will be realized by immigration.

The skilled trades shortage is not only affecting the construction industry but is having a direct effect on the economy, dramatically increasing the time required to complete recent construction projects over the past five years. The delays are a result of our subcontractors inability to find and hire skilled trades people in all areas of expertise. This leads to increased construction schedules and material costs that are compounded by the rapidly-increasing price of new housing. This ultimately leads to increases absorbed by the taxpayer. This facility will address the trades shortage by increasing the number of employees that will help lessen the strain on the construction industry and the economy.

Labour market information indicates that the Ontario Construction industry will require 70,000 new workers to meet the demand forecast between now and 2014. The negative effects of this shortfall in human resources will be felt in all

sectors of our economy as the time required to complete projects increases driving up building costs in both commercial and residential sectors.

Windmill is an active developer of residential mixed use projects in the Ottawa area and we have directly been impacted by the shortage of skilled workers by key trades on our existing projects already. Windmill is also a leading sustainable developer across the country and find the sub-trades are generally the biggest risk factor in the delivery of LEED or other sustainable building projects due to the knowledge gap in this key sector.

Indicators point to a healthy market for education and training in the construction trades and building sciences. The creation of the Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences at Algonquin College will allow for consolidation, strengthening and expansion of construction trades and building sciences programs to better meet the just-in-time training and human resource needs of Eastern Ontario's construction sector and related trades.

Currently in the Ottawa Region, young high school students are not viewing a career in the construction industry as a preferred career choice. This Centre will be a key in student recruitment and allow the Industry and the College to present a vision for a rewarding and exciting career to this important cohort, starting in the Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences.

The Centre will offer a new way of teaching trades curricula and raise awareness of the benefits of working in the construction industry and present the trades as an excellent viable career option. It will also create a focal point for the construction trades and building sciences industry, a portal for lifelong employment and learning and provide innovative state-of-the-art curriculum, facilities, and equipment for integrated learning that emulates real work situations.

The innovative approach being proposed will become the new paradigm in construction training and produce a richer more versatile graduate that is project ready.

A first-of-its-kind 'green' approach to programming and building design, which promotes integration and consolidation of resources and operational efficiencies, will produce a new facility having a smaller footprint than the combined existing facilities but having the capacity to accommodate an increase in access and a 20% increase in enrolment. It will also be less costly to complete this Centre than to renovate existing space.

The Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences will create a dynamic learning environment that enables cross-discipline interaction to enhance development of ideas, concepts and solutions to ensure that graduates are project ready. It will also provide access to integrated teams of students and

professors, helping to foster creative, innovative thinking. The Centre will have a positive impact for the next 40 years the 1.5 million people in Ottawa and create a platform for innovative research activity, supporting research facilities such as the National Research Council.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss the need for the Centre for Construction Trades and Building Sciences with you in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Westeinde". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Westeinde
Managing Partner
Windmill Development Group, Ltd.