Media Release **May 6, 2014**

Algonquin College's Pembroke Campus to Host National Rural College Symposium

Algonquin College's Waterfront Campus in Pembroke is preparing to welcome college leaders from across Canada as it plays host to its first national symposium. As part of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges' (ACCC) Annual Conference to be held in Ottawa, the Pembroke Campus will stage a pre-conference activity on May 24 and 25 that caters to educators and administrators who work at rural Canadian colleges.

The Rural Campus Symposium is expected to attract about 100 delegates and will explore opportunities and challenges facing smaller colleges. Pembroke Campus Dean, Karen Davies, has attended a number of previous rural symposiums and is very pleased to have the opportunity to host Canada's college leaders, calling the symposium a "dialogue that needs to happen more frequently."

"While rural and small colleges face unique challenges, they are also well-positioned to have the greatest impact in their communities," says Davies. "It is important that we have an opportunity to collaborate and learn from one another, and this symposium will cover many hot topics and best practices that college employees will want to talk about."

The conference will feature keynote addresses by Sean Conway, former Ontario Minister of Colleges and Universities, and Ken Coates University of Saskatchewan Research Chair of Innovation. Workshops and a televised Town Hall dialogue on the future of colleges and institutes in rural Canada will round out the event. The Town Hall meeting will be recorded by COGECO Community Television for future broadcast and will be shared with colleges and institutes online.

Mr. Conway will speak about the Canadian political landscape and how it impacts rural college campuses. Dr. Coates will discuss the economic impact of rural college campuses and how they integrate with regional economic planning.

"The rural symposium is an important part of the annual national conference that explores the unique challenges associated with delivering post-secondary education outside of urban centres," said Denise Amyot, ACCC President and CEO "Now more than ever, the expertise of rural colleges is required to provide leadership in helping smaller municipalities have access to advanced skills for community economic and social development."

1 College Way
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 0c8

Community
and Student
Affairs
Department

Office: 613-735-4700
Ext. 2756
Fax: 613-735-8805

ACCC is the national and international voice of Canada's publicly-funded colleges and institutes, working with industry and social sectors to train 1.5 million learners of all ages and backgrounds, at campuses that serve over 3,000 urban, rural and remote communities from coast to coast to coast.

Algonquin College's Waterfront Campus opened in the fall of 2012. The campus is the largest of Algonquin's regional campuses and has about 900 full-time students studying in 19 full-time programs. It has served the Upper Ottawa Valley since the Ontario College system was founded in the 1967.

1 College Way

Pembroke, Ontario

K8A 0c8

For more information, contact:

Jamie Bramburger
Manager of Community and Student Affairs
Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley
613-735-4700, ext. 2756

Shawn Dearn
Director, Communications and Information Services
Association of Canadian Community Colleges
613-746-2222, ext. 3123

Community

and Student

Affairs

Department

Office: 613-735-4700

Ext. 2756

Fax: 613-735-8805