

Message from the President - College Community Update

March 25, 2026

Dear colleagues,

Over the past two years, Algonquin College has been navigating significant challenges. We continue to respond together to evolving enrolment patterns, shifting government priorities, and increased expectations for accountability across the postsecondary sector. In this environment, the College is responding to strengthen its position for the future. We are stabilizing our financial foundation, aligning our academic and operational priorities, and structuring the College to respond effectively to both current challenges and long-term opportunities.

This work is intentional and interconnected, with each action contributing to a clear and consistent path forward. It is made possible by your professionalism, resilience and dedication. Thank you for your continued focus on students and on our collective priorities as we move forward together.

Current environment

From an enrolment perspective, domestic student numbers are tracking in line with budget projections. International enrolment, however, has declined abruptly and significantly, and continues to trend downward due to federal policy changes related to study visas and post-graduate work permits.

The Ontario government's recent funding [announcement](#) is welcome news and provides short-term stability and predictability over the next four fiscal years, but it does not remove the need for ongoing financial discipline.

The cost-containment measures we have been implementing over the past 18 months, along with decisions taken by the College and Board of Governors, remain critical now and going forward. These actions strengthen our financial sustainability, help mitigate deficit budgeting, create capacity for strategic investment, and ensure we are positioned to respond to government priorities. I should also note that the new funding is tied to the realization of these efficiency gains, further underscoring the need for continued financial diligence.

Government priorities to support Ontario's economy are clear, with a focus on sectors such as healthcare, skilled trades, construction, transportation, mining and energy, advanced manufacturing, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Aligning our programs with these areas strengthens our financial position, our relevance to learners, and the communities we serve.

Outlook for 2026–27 and beyond

As we look ahead, our focus is to operate more cohesively, efficiently and strategically. The changes outlined below are part of this broader effort.

Organizational alignment

- **Marketing, Recruitment and Communications**

To strengthen the College's competitive position in an increasingly complex enrolment environment, Marketing will move to the Academic Area to ensure closer alignment with academic programming, market positioning, and to support student recruitment efforts. This change will enable a more integrated approach to program promotion, learner engagement, and enrolment strategy. Part of this organizational realignment will enhance communications planning, and support greater consistency in corporate communications and brand stewardship across the institution. Planning will begin April 1, 2026, with transition and implementation timelines to be finalized in consultation with the Academic Area, Student Services, and the President's Office.

- **People and Technology**

To build future organizational capability, we are bringing Information Technology Services and Human Resources into closer alignment under a People and Technology model. This reflects the growing connection between digital and people-facing processes across the College and creates greater opportunity for coordination, service integration and institutional agility. Effective April 1, 2026, the Vice President, People and Technology group will be established, bringing together the current ITS and HR staff and functions.

Investing in our future

Financial discipline allows us to continue investing in areas critical to long-term success, including modern academic spaces, infrastructure renewal, and digital modernization. Recent and ongoing projects include:

- **Completed / recent investments:**

- Piwànak - Life Science Labs – the creation of modern academic space supporting health and science programs, and providing opportunities for external partnership.
- Accessibility improvements across campuses that enhance the employee and student experience.
- Greenhouse gas reduction projects, including Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) replacement in P and V buildings, providing better learning environments for students, faculty and staff, as well as supporting sustainability and facility renewal objectives.

- **Current / multi-year projects:**

- Paramedicine Lab – Significantly upgraded learning spaces for high-demand health programming with updated learning spaces and equipment.
- Pedestrian Bridge (from ACCE to the LRT station) – improving campus connectivity and access to rapid transit.
- R3 Student Information System – which remains foundational for long-term digital modernization.

- **Potential future investments:**

- AI-enabled teaching, learning, and service innovation.
- Academic and lab space renewal in priority areas, including health and skilled trades.

- Critical infrastructure and deferred maintenance, including roofs and HVAC, and other critical building systems.
- Digital resilience and business continuity, including a Remote Data Centre.
- Strategic space planning and campus redevelopment to ensure our campuses continue to support future academic and operational needs, aligned with government priorities.

The work ahead requires continued focus and discipline, and the changes we are implementing are an essential part of this process. Together, they strengthen Algonquin College's capacity to respond effectively, operate efficiently, and better position the institution for long-term success.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our students, to one another, and to the future of the College.

Sincerely,

Claude Brulé
President and CEO