

Thank you.... Hello, Kwe, bonjour.

It is a pleasure to be here this afternoon as the proud title sponsor to TEDxOttawa.

I am especially delighted to hear that TED and TEDxOttawa have taken on a year-long climate initiative. There is always more we can do to serve as stewards of the environment and I am confident that we will leave today's event with significant strategies to better protect Mother Earth.

At Algonquin College, we have long been an advocate in recognizing climate change, and ensuring sustainability is at the forefront of our planning, decision making, and business practices.

Sustainable Algonquin is rooted in the S-E-E model for sustainability – balancing Social, Economic **AND** Environmental pillars.

We recognize that sustainability is interconnected – a healthy environment also means a healthy community and local economy.

That’s why I am so proud of the new ideas and partnerships coming to life at Algonquin – including projects from our MakerSpace and our Social Innovation lab, as well as the College’s ongoing efforts to fulfill our commitments to Truth and Reconciliation.

At the end of the day, every strategic decision we make at Algonquin embraces the College’s four values of caring, learning, integrity and respect – and those values have shaped our own

sustainable initiatives, including environmental efforts to address climate change.

Thirteen years ago, in 2007, we became the first College in Canada to sign on to the Talloires Declaration, an international agreement which includes a ten-point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in teaching, research, operations and outreach at colleges and universities.

Seven years ago, Algonquin College launched Canada's first Bachelor of Building Science program, a program designed to bridge all facets of building design, construction, human comfort, and sustainability.

Other areas of environmental leadership at the College include LEED® Gold certification for new buildings and our development of Vocational Learning Outcomes that embed sustainability into

our curriculum. Sustainability themes have also been echoed in the College's efforts to embed Indigenization knowledge throughout the organization.

Combatting climate change and striving for a sustainable future requires strong partnerships. Examples of such mutually beneficial arrangements at the College include our partnership with World Wildlife Fund Canada on a national campus sustainability program, and our long-standing relationship with Siemens Canada that has resulted in numerous efficiency and sustainability retrofits to the Ottawa campus, and the development of a new Mechatronics Lab.

Here at Algonquin, the tangible and meaningful steps we are taking have influenced positive change and are a testament to our commitment in working to restore and regenerate our

environment. I encourage you to reflect on what is said today, and to commit to changing one element of your day-to-day activities. If we all do so, then we **CAN** make a real impact today for a better tomorrow.

Thank you. Miigwetch. Merci.