

Major gift for Algonquin College

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Recognizing the need for an expanded college campus in Pembroke, Eastway Inc. has pledged \$50,000 towards the capital campaign for Renaissance Square.

Eastway Inc. president Dan Bedard made the announcement Thursday, in collaboration with the official opening of Eastway Contracting and Development and expanded location of Eastway Refurbishment in the former Eddy Match building in the city's west end.

The Eastway company already has a good relationship with Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley, with five apprentices in the automotive, mechanical and bodywork fields working for the company.

"We think this college is going to provide the biggest growth this area has seen," Mr. Bedard said after handing over the cheque to college dean Karen Davies.



Dan Bedard, left, president of Eastway Inc. and Kevin Abrams, Sales and Marketing Manager at Eastway Inc. support the College and its important role in training skilled employees of the future.

He hopes the partnership can grow with the college, as he sees a need for all skilled trades.

"Our company believes strongly in the community and we know that having access to a skilled labour force is the key to our company's success," he added. "Having a modern college campus with more training opportunities is vitally important to our business and to the entire fabric of the greater Pembroke area."

Dean Davies called the donation an outstanding sign of support from the local business community. It goes a long way to helping the capital campaign committee meet its goal of \$2.5 million which it must raise towards the \$36 million college expansion at Pembroke's waterfront. This latest pledge brings the fundraising total \$1.3 million

"We thank you very much and we hope the college will help to provide future employees for your companies," she said.

At its new expanded location, Eastway employs about 100 people mainly specializing in the refurbishment of buses and equipment used in transit including Ottawa's OC Transpo buses. In the workshop area, buses are stripped down and rebuilt for clients from Ottawa to North Bay.

The new campus is scheduled to open in the fall of 2012. The building will create additional student spaces for full-time students, allow the college to offer expanded programming and will serve as a catalyst in the future economic development and revitalization of the city's historic downtown.

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Karen Davies, Dean of Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley, accepts a cheque for \$50,000 for the new Pembroke Campus, from Dan Bedard, president of Eastway Inc. in Pembroke.

