



Algonquin  
Students'  
Association

CORPORATION

**Media Release**

**February 22, 2008**

### **Algonquin College Students' Association Supports New Campus Initiative in Pembroke**

Pembroke, ON February 22, 2008 - The Algonquin College Students' Association (SA) has added its support to a proposal to build a new Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley campus in downtown Pembroke. The Students' Association has committed to investing a minimum of \$4 million dollars to further expand the proposal through the building of additional student amenities, such as a gymnasium and fitness centre.

Students' Association President Rob Nettleton says: "We want to ensure that students who study at the Pembroke Campus have the same college experience as other Ontario college students. Pembroke students have been asking for sports and fitness facilities, as well as expanded services and an overall increase in space for years. The proposed plan to build a new campus provides the SA with the opportunity to clearly state our support of this project through a substantial financial commitment which, if a new facility is built, will enhance student life for those who study at the Pembroke Campus", adds Nettleton.

Karen Davies, Dean of Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley, says the Students' Association has always been very supportive of the Pembroke Campus but has never had the opportunity to provide additional facilities on campus because of space constraints. "We are thrilled to have the Algonquin Students' Association support for the new campus expansion proposal. There is no clearer example of the importance of this project to our student body than the multi-million dollar commitment that is being made by the Students' Association today," adds Davies.

In December, Algonquin College's Board of Governors endorsed a plan to construct a new Ottawa Valley Campus in downtown Pembroke, contingent on receiving appropriate funding and government approval. If approved, the project, known as Renaissance Square, would see the College build an 80,000 square foot campus near Pembroke's waterfront, adjacent to the city's downtown.

The projected cost of the facility, without the Students' Association enhancement, is \$32 million and would allow the Pembroke Campus to expand to accommodate just over 1,000 full-time and apprenticeship students. Enrollment at Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley hit an all-time high this past fall when more than 735 full-time, apprenticeship and college preparation students enrolled at the campus.





# Algonquin Students' Association

CORPORATION

## SA Supports New Campus Initiative – Page 2

Raymonde Hanson, Vice-President Academic, Algonquin College, says the Students' Association is to be commended for supporting the College in its ambitious expansion plans, which include its Woodroffe, Perth and Pembroke campuses. "Our expansion plans are focused on providing more access to post-secondary education to help meet the skilled labour challenges that are now facing Eastern Ontario. For the City of Pembroke, a new campus will help revitalize Pembroke's downtown and generate more tourism potential for all of Renfrew County," adds Hanson.

- 30 -

### **About Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley**

Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley is Algonquin College's largest regional campus and is based in Pembroke. The campus has been serving the Ottawa Valley region since the inception of the Ontario College system in 1967, and currently has an enrollment of approximately 735 full-time and apprenticeship students. The campus offers full-time programming in health care, business, skilled trades, technology, social sciences and outdoor training.

### **About the Algonquin College Students' Association**

Operating under a mission to create an environment that inspires a passion for student success, the Algonquin Students' Association is a not-for-profit corporation that is governed by an elected board of student directors. The board consists of nine directors, including a Pembroke Campus Director. The Algonquin Students' Association has been representing Algonquin College students for more than 30 years and operates a number of student facilities and services on all Algonquin campuses.

### **For more information, contact:**

Rob Nettleton, President  
Algonquin Students' Association  
Email: [nettlr@algonquincollege.com](mailto:nettlr@algonquincollege.com)  
Phone: 613-727-4723 ext. 5293  
Website: [www.algonquinsa.com](http://www.algonquinsa.com)

Jamie Bramburger, Manager  
Community and Student Affairs  
Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley  
Email: [brambuj@algonquincollege.com](mailto:brambuj@algonquincollege.com)  
Phone: 613-735-4700, ext. 2756  
Website: [www.algonquincollege.com/pembrokenewcampus](http://www.algonquincollege.com/pembrokenewcampus)