

February 3, 2026

Hon. Nolan Quinn
Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
438 University Avenue, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Via email: minister.mcures@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Quinn,

I am the City Councillor for College Ward in the City of Ottawa, the home of Algonquin College, a school which has served communities in Eastern Ontario since 1967.

Algonquin College has been ranked among the Top 50 Research Colleges in Canada and has been recognized as one of Canada's top innovation leaders and currently has over 19,000 students studying in 180 educational, training, and technology programs.

Some of Algonquin's alumni include former Olympic equestrian Ian Millar; the late comedian Norm Macdonald and his CBC journalist brother Neil Macdonald; former Prime Minister of Somalia Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed; Fox News journalist Jance Dean; Comedian Tom Green; MPs Anthony Rota and Michael Barret; SportsCentre anchor Dan O'Toole; and many more.

In short, Algonquin has helped launch the successful careers of many, many Canadians. It is an Ontario success story, largely thanks to Province of Ontario support.

Unfortunately, due to the precarious funding situation from a lengthy tuition freeze, Algonquin College leadership has had to pivot its finances several times: first to international student revenues, and more recently, to dramatic program cuts.

Algonquin College is now facing cuts to several important programs that offer hands-on, practical training to students wanting to enter the workforce with a solid education. Among the programs on the chopping block:

- Manufacturing engineering technician
- Several programs within the Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence
- Applied museum studies, which helps achieve employment in the National Capitals many museums
- Music industry arts, supporting the local growth of that industry

- BSc of Culinary arts and food science, which leads to employment in many area hotels and restaurants
- Law clerk and Paralegal programs
- School of Health Studies programs
- And many more

These programs have a proven track record of generating well-educated and well-trained professional graduates to businesses starving for a strong workforce. For many companies and organizations, these cuts will leave a marked vulnerability in our local economy.

Minister, I implore you to increase funding to Algonquin College to offset the loss of tuition revenues that changes to international student visa programs have created. We cannot lose momentum in education and training for Ontario workers. Evidence tells us that the more educated a society is, the more productive its economy will be. Countries or regions with highly trained people will attract advanced industries, generate more savings and investment, and create entirely new economic sectors.

To quote one of your colleagues, the Government of Ontario's "Open for Business priority "is about realizing the full potential of workers and businesses to grow our economy by creating a more competitive environment for them to flourish and put our people to work."

To be competitive, Ottawa, and indeed all of Ontario, needs to have a trained workforce ready to take on the challenges of businesses entering our economy. Algonquin College continues to innovate to meet the economic challenges of the day, but it is being left to make financial decisions that erode its ability to respond.

Please consider the importance of investing in education and training, Minister. It's important for our students, for our employers, and for our province's economic future.

Warm regards,

Laine Johnson
Councillor
College Ward

Cc:

Premier Doug Ford

Claude Brulé, President & Chief Executive Officer, Algonquin College

Jessica McCabe, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Directors, Algonquin College

Michael Qaqish, Manager, Government Relations and Special Advisor to the President,
Algonquin College

Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor, City of Ottawa

MPP Chandra Pasma

MPP Tyler Watt

Vanshika Sharma, President, Algonquin Students Association

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