

**News release – November 19, 2008**

**Several Algonquin College Students Land Jobs  
with the Canada Revenue Agency**

Six students at Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley are reaping the benefits of participating in the College's Computer Systems Technician co-operative program. They have been offered full-time jobs with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) following their co-op assignments with the CRA in Ottawa.

The students—Sean Madigan of Deep River, Joey Gervais of Pembroke, Don Sheppard of Pembroke, Shawn Code of Pembroke, Sheri Heaslip of Petawawa, and Lisa Prince of Renfrew—have already started to work with the CRA as part-time employees, an arrangement that will give them the time that they need to complete their diploma program. Once they finish their studies in December, they will join the federal agency on a full-time basis.

The students consider themselves very fortunate to have secured employment with the federal government. According to Shawn Code: "This program gave us a great foundation for the work we are doing now. It provides a solid skill set to anyone wishing to enter the field of information technology. The co-op experience was a great opportunity to demonstrate our skills."

Information technology managers within the CRA have been very impressed with the students from the Computer Systems Technician program at Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley. "Based on our experience with these students during the summer, we decided to offer them full-time jobs after they graduate," said one manager. "They have proven themselves. Not only do they have the knowledge and skills that the CRA needs, but they also possess the proper attitude and commitment that we look for when hiring."

The Computer Systems Technician program is a two-year diploma program that is delivered in a compressed format. It can be completed in 18 months and focuses on teaching students to work in many areas within the information technology field, such as network administration, network security, routing, and computer troubleshooting.

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Algonquin's Chair of Business, Technology and Outdoor Training, Murray Kyte, says the College is very pleased with the success of its co-op program. "These graduates are starting their career at an organization that offers an excellent salary, opportunities for advancement, and an environment where they will continue to learn and build on the knowledge and skills they acquired through the Computer Systems Technician program. This is exactly how co-op should work," adds Kyte.

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Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley offers five co-op programs: Computer Systems Technician, Business, Outdoor Adventure Naturalist, Golf and Ski Operations Management, and Motive Power Technician. Students must obtain a high academic standing in their first semester in order to qualify for a co-op placement, and, in some programs, co-op training is mandatory.

Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley offers 16 full-time programs including certificate, diploma, and degree programs, has a full-time student population of more than 700 students, and delivers apprenticeship training, continuing education, and college preparation classes annually to more than 2,000 students.

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