



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 2015

**Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada funds
Champlain Regional College (Saint-Lambert) program for First Nations**

Saint-Lambert – Champlain Regional College’s Saint-Lambert campus has partnered with Kahnawake’s First Nations Adult Education School Council to develop both a preparatory program and adapted First Nations Early Childhood Education (ECE) AEC program to address unemployment and underemployment issues experienced in the young adult 18-24 population.

Funding for this multi-year project was secured in a joint application to the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

The Tawatohnh'saktha Economic Development Commission has identified barriers for entry in college-level courses and this program will ensure that this target market is properly prepared for acceptance into the AEC program and that students obtain the competencies to enter into the field of Early Childhood Education.

“This program will be adapted to embrace First Nations' culture and language and ensure the academic success of participants so that they can gain employment on reserves as well as in the greater community” said Kenneth Robertson, Director General of Champlain Regional College. “We are delighted to further our long-standing relationship with First Nations’ communities in Quebec,” announced Don Shewan, Campus Director of Champlain College Saint-Lambert.

Rola Helou, Executive Director of the School Council expressed that “the Council is excited to be partnering with Champlain to find innovative ways to respond to the educational and employment needs of communities throughout Quebec.”

First Nations Adult Education School Council is an association offering quality education to all First Nations adults. The First Nations Adult Education School Council ensures that the goal of quality, holistic education will be achieved in a spirit of collaboration, respect, sharing and commitment.

Champlain Regional College is the only English-language public cégep that provides a college education in three distinct administrative regions of Québec. The Lennoxville, Saint-Lambert, and Saint-Lawrence campuses offer a wide range of pre-university and technical programs, as well as extensive on and off campus Continuing Education services.

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