

# Campus expected to stimulate growth in east

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Duff's sentiments were echoed by several committee members, who voted to endorse La Cité's plans and request the city turn over the land.

"We talk about extending the 174 so people can get downtown or to Tunney's Pasture ... (But) we think people should be able to stay in their community," said Judith Caré, who sits on the advisory committee and is also chair of the Orléans Chamber of Commerce.

In the short term, La Cité expects the project will generate \$9.2 million in economic spinoffs

over five years as the influx of new students and staff purchase meals, lodging and other services in the area. The new campus is also projected to create 30 new full-time jobs and up to 80 part-time jobs by 2013.

Duff said a consultant hired by the city concluded the property is an appropriate fit for La Cité's plans, although the land needs to be rezoned. He also said the serviced property is well-suited for a campus-style development because there are several major ravines that would make it hard to subdivide or build some other major project.

When asked what would happen if the city chose to withhold the land, Brousseau bluntly replied that there would be no expansion project. However, Orléans Coun. Bob Monette said he expected a majority of councillors would support a motion to hand over the property, which must first go through the city's corporate services and economic development committee before being voted on by full council.

La Cité expects it will raise \$4 million from the local construction and trade sector in a major fundraising campaign this fall. The college will contribute \$1.1 million of its own money for the project and is also counting on receiving a combined \$12 million from the provincial and federal governments.

It is hoped construction will start next spring so the centre can open in September 2010.

COMMUNITY NEWS

## La Cité eyes land on Trim Road for new campus

Peter Kovessy

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La Cité collégiale plans to build a new \$18.1 million, 63,000-sq. ft. campus dedicated to the construction trades in Orléans in time for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Officials from the Francophone college are asking the city to donate a 17-acre plot of land off Trim Road, between Highway 174 and North Service Road, for the project, called a 'Centre of Specialization in the Construction Trades.' The land, in proximity of the Trim Road Transitway Park and Ride, is valued at \$1 million.

"We want a highly visible place to show the high-tech components of our training," said Serge Brousseau, La Cité's vice-president of student and administrative services, in a presentation to the city's business advisory committee last week.

"This will send a message that these are the jobs of the future," he added.

Preliminary plans for the campus call for a 40,000-sq. ft. main building, as well as two model homes for students to train. A storage 'hanger' is also included in the plans for the first phase, bringing the total to 63,000 sq. ft.

The expansion would allow the college to increase the number of construction trade programs it offers from seven to 18 and increase the number of apprentices from 358 to 700 by 2012, according to Brousseau's presentation.

There will be approximately 1,000 students on the campus on any given day, including those enrolled in apprenticeship, post-secondary, continuing education and contract training programs.

Brousseau said approximately 30 per cent of La Cité's students come from Quebec, but many decide to stay in Ottawa after they graduate.

"Our goal is to build a workforce for Ottawa," he said, estimating Eastern Ontario will require an additional 7,000 workers in the construction trade sectors by 2015.

In addition to helping address the looming labour shortage in the skilled trades sectors, city officials see the project as an opportunity to give Ottawa's east end an economic boost.

"This will drive employment in the east and will stimulate growth in and around that area ... This is also about bringing jobs to Orléans," said Ian Duff, Ottawa's manager of economic development.

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