

# staff plan to have Orléans campus

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Staff at La Cité Collégiale are planning to build a campus in the Orléans area.

The site being considered is on the northwest corner of Trim Road and the 174. Soil samples are needed to confirm the land can be used for development. If all goes well, construction should begin sometime in 2010 for the \$17 million, 60,000 square foot facility, which will be dedicated for programs in skilled trades such as carpentry, electricity and plumbing.

"With the current demographic in Orléans being 30 per cent Francophone and over 50 per cent bilingual, it will give Orléans students a chance to study in their own language, in their own backyard," said Orléans city councillor Bob Monette. "I am happy to help La Cité Collégiale work with our staff to see that the new campus comes to Orléans."

Monette added with over \$220 million invested in the Town Centre Plaza's expansion, the post-secondary facility will be "nice fit."

The site is within an hour drive from 17 dif-

ferent Francophone high schools which could potentially feed into the new campus.

"We have a population of over 100,000 people in Orléans and no post-secondary education in the east end," said Monette, adding that enrolment will start at 350 students and increase to over 700. "There is an alarming shortage of skilled trade workers and the quicker we can get students job ready it will be better for the economy."

The City of Ottawa's Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee will weigh in on the issue on August 19th. It will then go to council on the 28th.

Monette said the support has been overwhelming.

The Business Advisory and Francophone Language Services committees have already showcased their support, said Monette.

"The mayor is very supportive and has helped me push this with other city staff," said Monette. "The college and I have spoken with several councillors to gauge support and across the board we have received a very good response."

## CAMPUS

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Monette said the only obstacle he sees will be the outcome from the soil samples.

The site will be analyzed soon, with council receiving the results in early August.

"Will the land support any construction is the question," said Monette. "We are hoping to have that answer soon."

Ottawa-Orléans Liberal MPP Phil McNeely said the need for a post-secondary institution in Orléans has been something he has been pushing for with the provin-

cial government for the last two years.

La Cité Collégiale is seeking financial support from all three levels of government.

"I am very confident that this project will move forward," said McNeely, adding that that the provincial government received a proposal from La Cité last year, and that Carleton University and the University of Ottawa were also interested.

Representatives from La Cité were unavailable at press time.