



**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWN OF PERTH**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town Perth Expresses Disappointment Over Decision to Close Perth Campus

Perth, Ontario – The Town of Perth is deeply disappointed by the Algonquin College Board of Governors’ decision to proceed with the closure of the Perth Campus, as approved at their February 24 meeting. Despite efforts to advocate for the continued operation of the campus, including a formal letter submitted by the Town, the Board moved forward with the closure without meaningful discussion of its significance to the community.

Deputy Mayor Ed McPherson and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Michael Touw attended the meeting in Ottawa to represent Perth and demonstrate the Town’s support for the campus, its students, and the many businesses that benefit from its presence.

“The Perth Campus has been an integral part of our community for over 50 years,” said Deputy Mayor Ed McPherson. “We are incredibly disappointed that the Board did not recognize the immense value and importance of this campus – not just to Perth, but to the entire region. Education in rural communities is critical, and the loss of this institution will have lasting impacts.”

The College cited a series of financial pressures leading to the closure, including frozen tuition levels, declining international student enrollment, and a growing deficit projected to exceed \$60 million within two years. The decision was made as part of a broader set of cuts, including the suspension and cancellation of over 40 programs across Algonquin College’s campuses.

The motion to close the Perth Campus was passed unanimously, with no discussion or debate on its broader impact. “It was disheartening to see such an important decision made so quickly and without a thorough exploration of alternatives,” said Deputy Mayor McPherson.

While the Town remains hopeful that the provincial government will intervene to support rural post-secondary education, Perth is also committed to ensuring that the physical campus remains a vibrant part of the community.

“We will actively explore opportunities to see the campus repurposed in a way that continues to benefit Perth,” Deputy Mayor McPherson continued. “This facility has long been a centre for learning and skills development, and we want to ensure it remains a valuable asset to our town’s future.”

The Town will continue to engage with community partners, provincial representatives, and other key parties to advocate for education and economic opportunities that serve the people of Perth.

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