

[date]

Claude Brulé, President, Algonquin College [email: [president@algonquincollege.com](mailto:president@algonquincollege.com) ]

Dear President Brulé,

**RE: Possible Termination of Horticultural Programs at Algonquin College**

I am a member of the Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS), a non-profit organization in Ottawa with over 130 years of promoting community-based horticultural knowledge and practices. The OHS works to support gardeners like me, and the general Ottawa gardening and horticultural community, by sharing knowledge, fostering community engagement, and promoting sustainable practices and biodiversity.

I am writing to voice my concern with the proposed termination of the *Horticultural Industries* and the *Horticulture Techniques Apprenticeship* programs at Algonquin College. I am concerned that the elimination of these programs would result in a significant loss of horticultural skills and knowledge in the Ottawa and eastern Ontario region.

I am also concerned that cutting these programs would have a detrimental impact on community programs and activities that foster sustainable horticultural and gardening practices, food security, and biodiversity. For example, I understand that the OHS has some collaboration with students and staff of these programs, specifically in growing native plants in support of biodiversity goals in the Ottawa region. The horticultural facilities and expertise on Algonquin's Ottawa campus are important in OHS support of the Canadensis Native Tree Nursery Project, where students are growing a half-dozen species of the more difficult-to-germinate native tree seeds.

I believe that Ottawa needs a continuation of the training and development of skilled and knowledgeable horticultural experts, such as provided by the Algonquin College horticultural programs. Algonquin horticultural students and graduates can make valuable contributions to sustainable gardening and landscaping in Ottawa, food security through planting community-led gardens, biodiversity, and advocacy for informed municipal and regional programs.

I therefore respectfully ask that you and the College's Board of Governors reconsider the proposal to terminate these horticultural programs and find a way to retain them in the academic programs of the College.

Sincerely,

[your name]

[your city]

cc: Dr. Julie Beauchamp, Senior Vice President – Academic, Algonquin College  
Algonquin College Board of Governors  
Larry Chamney, President, Ottawa Horticultural Society (OHS)  
Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor of Ottawa, and Honorary President OHS  
Kelly Taylor, Secretary, Ontario Horticultural Society (OHA)  
Anne Harbord, Secretary, District 2/OHA

**[Email addresses for list of cc recipients]**

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