

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Priorities Report - Fall Term

2025 - 2026



Our Board Members

A student Board of Directors governs the SA and acts as your voice to the Algonquin College administration.

The Board is made up of full-time students in Ottawa, Pembroke, and Perth. Their job is to connect with students outside of the classroom, elevate student issues, and to help make critical decisions that impact the Algonquin College community.

It is crucial to the Board's work that they hear what is impacting student success, please feel free to share your concerns.



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Mission & Philosophy

The Student Association's mission is to create an environment that inspires a passion for student success. This pursuit has served as our core directive for the last 55 years.

Many things have changed drastically over the last half-century, both on and off campus, that have had significant impacts on the student environment. Many of these changes have been beneficial to students and helped to promote Ontario students as leaders on the global stage. Some of these changes brought challenges that needed to be addressed and overcome.

But challenges aren't bad. They are what push us to adapt, to change, and to grow. These challenges have shown the strength and resilience of students and their desire to prosper. Our mission is to create an environment that inspires passion, and it is that passion that drives students to overcome these challenges and grow.

One thing we never forget is that we are not operating alone. We are here to represent the students, and we couldn't do our work without them. Our work is collaborative in nature. We work alongside partners at every level of Algonquin College, various levels of governments, and with countless community groups to represent the collective student voice and to make sure that they have a seat at the table for any discussion that will affect student life and the quality of the campus environment.



Feedback Collection

The Board of Directors starts their term in May every year, but our work on establishing our priorities begins long before that. From the time we started campaigning to become Directors, we were in constant contact with students across all three campuses, talking to them about the challenges they face and the issues that are the most important to them.

Since our term officially started, we collectively spent over 200 hours directly speaking face-to-face with students at various events, class representative meetings, residence move-in weekends, and tabling sessions around all campuses.

We then took this direct feedback and analyzed it alongside ongoing programs, survey results, and work put in place by previous boards, to decide where we could most effectively direct our resources to have the largest long-term positive impact on students. There are many challenges that students face on campus, but there were a few that rose to the surface as key issues that required attention. These highlighted areas formed the base for our priority work for the coming year.

AS OF AUGUST 2025

200+ *Linking Hours*

4 *Tabling Sessions*

4 *Remote Campus Visits*

3 *Class Rep Meetings*

250+ *Students*

450+ *Feedback Points*

Priorities 2025 - 2026

This year, we decided to focus on three main areas that we believe will create improvements for all students.

These three areas are: **Academics, Student Leadership, and Transportation.**

Academics

Strengthen academic quality and work-integrated learning opportunities, ensuring students are prepared for meaningful careers.

Academics are the core purpose of the College and the underlying reason why students attend post-secondary institutions. As such, it is critical that the quality and relevance of academic materials taught at the College are industry-leading and equip students with modernized knowledge and skills to bring into their careers. Our goal with this priority is to ensure that the College is providing career-relevant course material and robust work-integrated learning supports that enable students to feel prepared to be successful entering the workforce.

Last year's Board of Directors spent a lot of time working with the College to identify weaknesses and create plans to improve the co-op search and placement process. We will continue to work with the College teams to not only put these plans in place, but also expand the focus to cover all work-integrated learning systems, such as internships and placements.

We are also committed to ensuring that the transition of the students and programs from the Perth campus to the Ottawa campus has the proper support it needs to be as smooth and seamless as possible. We are not willing to accept any drop in the quality of the programming from that campus, both through its final year and in its transition.

Student Leadership



Equip student leaders to strengthen peer support, service awareness, and connection.

Students are the cornerstone of our mission and purpose. Every action we take is directed by the student voice and rooted in the feedback that we receive from countless interactions with our members. Nothing we do would be possible without this. It is important that part of our work remains dedicated to ensuring that this dialogue remains open, accessible, and two-way.

While we would love to be able to sit down and have discussions with every single student, that is not a realistic possibility. Student leaders, whether it's official class representatives, clubs and community leaders, or any other student who finds themselves in a position advocating for their classmates, are critical in effectively representing all our students. These roles allow for feedback from classmates, clubmates, and a wider scope of students to be collected and represented in a far more efficient manner than trying to reach every student individually.

While we recognize the invaluable service these student leaders provide, we also recognize that they require better training and support from us to effectively help and represent the broader student community.

Transportation

Advocate for improved and reliable transportation.

Ottawa – Advocating for improved public transportation in Ottawa is a constant priority. There are many aspects of the system that have so much potential, but that we believe need to be improved. Accessible and reliable transportation to campus isn't just a convenience; it is a critical component to reducing barriers to education. If students can't consistently get to campus because of cost, reliability, or accessibility issues, then it doesn't matter how good the quality of the education that would be provided is — students can't access it.

This priority may not yield any drastic and immediate changes, but it is critical that students continue to have a seat at the table and an active voice in discussions surrounding transportation in the city. We will continue to work with partners at the College, local councillors, and OC Transpo to find solutions that don't create any undue or unfair burden on the students.

Perth - With the coming closure of the Perth campus, our goal is to minimize the impacts on students in every way possible. As part of this, we are having conversations with the College to highlight the challenges facing Perth-based students who will have to travel or move to a different campus for their final term.

Pembroke - This August, Pembroke saw the launch of the long-awaited Ottawa River Transit pilot project. This project will see the operation of an on-demand bus service within the City of Pembroke for the next three years, before the city council decides if it should be adopted as a permanent service. This has been a project that the Students' Association has been a vocal advocate of for many years.

Our goal with this project is to ensure that it meets the needs of our students on the Pembroke campus. Not only will this project make it easier and less expensive for students to get to and from their classes, but it will improve overall mobility around the city, making it easier for students to get groceries, acquire and maintain gainful employment, and attend social events and outings with their friends.

Our aim is to promote this project with students and work with the Pembroke Transit committee to find avenues to maximize accessibility for students.

Looking Forward

Our priorities this year will require a lot of collaboration with many shareholders, both internal and external. Our Academics priority will require joint work with our partners within the Algonquin College teams. Our efforts towards this priority would not be possible without them. Our transportation work will require working alongside several external partners, such as the Cities of Pembroke and Ottawa, OC Transpo, and Ottawa River Transit. And of course, our goals to strengthen student leadership roles will be done alongside these student leaders to provide them with the specific tools they need to be effective.

None of these priorities will be possible without these partners, and a critical factor will be constant and open communication. These next few months will build the basis for the long-term success of these measures. We will be monitoring and evaluating our planning progress through the Fall Term to remain on track to allow for the Winter Term to see the implementation of action plans that can provide for improvements that persist beyond our term on the Board. Some of our work will be to provide active and immediate changes to serve current students, and a lot of our work will help create improvements for years of future students.

This work will not be easy. We know that we will face many challenges and that we will require the support and collaborative efforts of our many invaluable partners. But we are confident that together we can create the changes we want to see. We aspire to create a passion for student success, but it is the strength and perseverance of the students that inspire us to drive this change.

We encourage you to continue to be a part of this process and to continue to provide your feedback and suggestions. Come talk to us whenever you see us, stop by our offices, or send us an email. Together, we know we can accomplish our goals, face these challenges, and strengthen the Pack.



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