

15 avril 2010 | Le Droit | JUSTINEJUSTINEMERCIER MERCIER [jmercier@jmercier@ledroit.ledroit.com](mailto:jmercier@jmercier@ledroit.ledroit.com)

# Les étudiants de La Cité satisfaits... les employeurs un peu moins

Alors qu'elle se classe parmi les meilleurs collèges ontariens lorsqu'il est question de satisfaction des étudiants, La Cité collégiale se situe légèrement sous la moyenne provinciale lorsque vient le temps d'évaluer la satisfaction des employeurs à l'égard de ses diplômés.

Les indicateurs de performance des 24 collèges ontariens, rendus publics hier, révèlent que La Cité occupe le deuxième rang en ce qui concerne la satisfaction globale des étudiants en 20082009, qui atteint 82,3 % alors que la moyenne ontarienne est de 76,3 %.

L'institution se classe en première place sur deux aspects, soit la qualité générale des expériences d'apprentissage et la pertinence des connaissances et compétences acquises en vue d'une future carrière.

Lorsqu'il est question du taux d'embauche des diplômés six mois après leur sortie des bancs d'école, La Cité collégiale obtient le troisième rang sur 24 avec un résultat de 88,2 %.

La nouvelle présidente de l'établissement, Lise Bourgeois, est ravie de ces résultats.

« Je suis très satisfaite et très fière des résultats de La Cité, ça permet d'apprécier tout le travail individuel et collectif qui a été fait par le personnel et l'équipe. »

En ce qui concerne la satisfaction des employeurs à l'égard des diplômés de La Cité, l'institution obtient 92,2 %, ce qui la situe au 18e rang sur 24. L'écart est cependant minime avec la moyenne provinciale, qui est de 93%. À ce chapitre, Mme Bourgeois affirme qu'il s'agit d'une amélioration par rapport à l'an dernier, mais qu'il reste du travail à faire.



« C'est important pour nous de bien comprendre les demandes des employeurs et de voir comment on peut mieux répondre à ces besoins-là », a indiqué la présidente de l'institution.

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15 avril 2010 | Le Droit | JUSTINE JUSTINE MERCIER MERCIER [jmercier@ledroit.com](mailto:jmercier@ledroit.com) Avec François Pierre Dufault

# Les parents fulminent à Cantley

## Transfert d'une centaine d'élèves vers des écoles de Gatineau

Les membres du conseil municipal et des parents de Cantley fulminent face à la décision de la Commission scolaire des Draveurs (CSD) de transférer une centaine d'élèves vers des écoles de Gatineau, estimant que les familles ont été « prises en otage ». « J'ai appris la nouvelle par une lettre qui a été laissée dans le sac de mon enfant hier, s'insurge le conseiller Alexandre Marion. C'est fréquent qu'on ait à déplacer des élèves, mais c'est assez exceptionnel que ça se fasse de même. » S'il dénonce la situation en tant que parent touché par cette décision de la CSD, il ne comprend pas plus, en tant que conseiller municipal, pourquoi la municipalité de Cantley n'a pas été informée plus tôt.



SIMON SÉGUIN-BERTRAND, LeDroit

### Quelque 75 parents ont manifesté leur mécontentement lors d'une rencontre d'information de la CSD à l'école communautaire de la Rose-des-Vents.

« Je suis indigné qu'il n'y ait pas eu de collaboration, poursuit-il. Ils affichent que la municipalité est un partenaire, mais la commissaire du quartier n'est pas venue au conseil pour aviser les gens. C'est épouvantable à une époque où on peut s'attendre à ce que tous les paliers de gouvernement travaillent ensemble. La CSD prend littéralement les familles en otage. » Le conseiller municipal François Hallé abonde dans le même sens. « Si on n'avait pas eu des conseillers qui ont des enfants à l'école, on ne l'aurait jamais su », déplore celui qui craint aussi pour l'essor économique de Cantley.

#### Information tardive

Hier soir, MM. Marion et Hallé étaient au nombre des quelque 75 parents qui ont manifesté leur mécontentement lors d'une rencontre d'information de la CSD à l'école communautaire de la Rose-des-Vents. Plusieurs d'entre eux se sont dits déçus de n'avoir été informés de la situation qu'une journée avant la rencontre.

« Sur quelle planète vivez-vous? Vous auriez pu vous organiser pour donner plus de temps aux parents. C'est inacceptable », a tonné Stéphane Sauvé, un parent dont les enfants seront déplacés l'an prochain.

« Si on relocalise les enfants à l'extérieur de la municipalité, ça va avoir un impact sur l'augmentation de la population et le développement économique, parce que les jeunes familles, quand elles décident où elles s'installent, se renseignent d'abord sur l'existence d'une école et d'un parc à proximité », souligne M. Hallé. Le conseil municipal de Cantley a d'ailleurs adopté à l'unanimité, mardi,

une résolution soulignant « l'indignation » de ses membres.

Hier soir, la commissaire scolaire du secteur, Andrée Sirois, a essuyé quelques attaques personnelles pour avoir voté en faveur du transfert d'élèves de Cantley vers Gatineau. Elle a dit souhaiter que le gouvernement du Québec annonce, au plus vite, la construction d'une nouvelle école pour répondre à la croissance démographique de la municipalité. La CSD a d'ailleurs présenté une demande à Québec à cet effet.

Pour sa part, M. Marion craint qu'une éventuelle décision favorable de Québec ne débouche sur l'arrivée d'une école dans le projet de L'Escarpement Limbour, à Gatineau.

« Le problème, c'est la volonté. Il n'y en aura pas d'école à Cantley, et l'école dans L'Escarpement ce n'est pas une école qui va desservir les besoins de la population de Cantley. Avec 10000 habitants, est-ce qu'il y a moyen qu'on ne patche pas les vieilles bâtisses des vieux quartiers? »

Le point de vue de Cantley



La municipalité de Cantley compte faire valoir son point de vue auprès de la ministre de l'Éducation, Michelle Courchesne. L'exaspération de M. Marion est par ailleurs attisée par un autre dossier, celui de l'école communautaire de la Rose-des-Vents, ouverte en 2006. Elle a bénéficié d'un appui financier de 1,5 million\$ de la municipalité de Cantley, mais la collaboration avec la CSD laisserait à désirer, surtout au niveau de l'accès au gymnase qui sert de salle communautaire. « On n'y a pas accès assez, et pas de façon raisonnable, estime M. Marion. On se sent vraiment comme si on n'était pas considéré. Les gens à la CSD agissent en rois et seigneurs et on est bien peu de chose. »

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## Un spectacle rassembleur à De La Salle

### L'événement réunit des élèves autistes et du Centre d'excellence artistique



par **Kristina Brazeau**

[Voir tous les articles de Kristina Brazeau](#)

Article mis en ligne le 15 avril 2010 à 0:05

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**Dans le cadre du mois de l'autisme, l'enseignant de la classe ressource TSA (troubles du spectre de l'autisme) Vlatko Dabic a fait le pari de réunir ses élèves et ceux du Centre d'excellence artistique (CEA) de l'École secondaire publique De La Salle dans un spectacle de musique, de théâtre et d'arts de la scène.** «Parfois quand je travaille avec mes élèves, ce n'est pas facile, mais quand je les vois sur la scène avec les autres élèves, ils sont décontractés et heureux. Je suis tellement surpris et j'espère développer le projet l'an prochain. La collaboration des élèves m'a surpris», indique M. Dabic.

«L'idée était d'offrir une expérience artistique professionnelle aux élèves et de les jumeler avec des élèves du CEA sur scène», ajoute-t-il.

Les élèves se préparent depuis des mois pour ce multi-spectacle qui aura lieu lundi (le 19 avril) à compter de 18h. Une exposition d'art visuel par les élèves des 10 classes ressources TSA du CEPEO est aussi au programme.

Le spectacle sera présenté à 19h45 et regroupera musique, théâtre, entrées de clowns, lecture de poèmes et monologues.

Autisme Ontario ainsi que la Société franco-ontarienne de l'autisme, qui sont commanditaires de l'événement, auront aussi des kiosques lors de la soirée pour donner de l'information sur leurs programmes.

Une plaque commémorative soulignant l'inauguration de la classe ressource TSA à De La Salle l'an dernier sera aussi dévoilée au cours de la soirée.

«C'est le seul programme à Ottawa où les élèves avec un trouble du spectre de l'autisme sont intégrés à 100% dans les classes régulières», souligne M. Dabic.

Une classe a été spécialement aménagée pour eux à De La Salle où ils se rendent au moins une fois par jour pour faire leurs devoirs ou s'avancer dans leurs projets scolaires supervisés par des éducateurs spécialisés. Les élèves peuvent aussi s'y rendre pour y recevoir de l'encadrement lors de périodes de frustrations ou de moments difficiles.

Les membres de la communauté sont invités au spectacle. Les personnes intéressées à y assister sont

invitées à communiquer avec l'École De La Salle.

15 avril 2010 | Le Droit | Paul Gaboury [pgaboury@ledroit.com](mailto:pgaboury@ledroit.com) PAUL GABOURY [pgaboury@ledroit.com](mailto:pgaboury@ledroit.com)

# La fonction publique durement touchée

## Les syndicats ripostent au gel des budgets fédéraux

Le gel des budgets des ministères décrété par le gouvernement Harper aura des conséquences très néfastes sur l'embauche et sur les services publics, déplorent les syndicats de fonctionnaires fédéraux.



Devant le comité des opérations gouvernementales, hier, les leaders syndicaux ont dénoncé le gel des enveloppes budgétaires ministérielles, qui aura des conséquences néfastes sur la fonction publique.

John Gordon, président de l'Alliance de la fonction publique du Canada, qui compte 177 000 membres, maintient que le budget fédéral 2010 n'aidera pas le Canada à se sortir de la récession et ne fera qu'empirer la situation.

« Pour la population canadienne, les compressions des dépenses signifient une diminution des services offerts par le gouvernement fédéral, à un moment où elle en a le plus besoin, a indiqué M. Gordon. Pour les travailleuses et travailleurs de la fonction publique fédérale, ces restrictions signifient des pertes d'emplois et de revenus. »

« Demander à la population 'de faire plus avec moins' est peut-être un bon slogan pour un clip, mais ce n'est pas une solution viable. Inévitablement, de telles mesures entraîneront une diminution des services et de la qualité de ces services pour la population, d'un océan à l'autre », a déclaré M. Gordon.

En 2010, le gel des budgets ministériels équivalra à une réduction d'environ cinq pour cent du

budget de fonctionnement, a rappelé Gary Corbett, président de l'Institut professionnel de la fonction publique du Canada, qui compte 57 000 membres.

« Nous contestons la validité de cet exercice, compte tenu des économies limitées qui y sont associées en comparaison avec les dommages considérables à la qualité des services publics fédéraux et à la capacité des professionnels de remplir leurs mandats ministériels », a indiqué M. Corbett.

« Le nombre de postes vacants demeure très élevé. Pourquoi ? Simplement parce que nous ne pouvons pas trouver assez de candidats pour combler les besoins des ministères et organismes. Menacer les salaires, les avantages sociaux, les pensions ou la sécurité d'emploi n'aidera pas à attirer des professionnels compétents », a déclaré pour sa part Claude Poirier, président de l'Association canadienne des employés professionnels (ACEP), qui représente 12 000 économistes, sociologues et statisticiens du gouvernement du Canada, ainsi qu'un millier de traducteurs, interprètes et terminologues au Bureau de la traduction et une centaine d'analystes et chercheurs à la Bibliothèque du Parlement.



Le gel des enveloppes budgétaires des ministères devrait aussi faire craindre pour la sécurité du public canadien. « Si le gouvernement en place impose un gel des budgets et commence à couper les programmes, verrons-nous une hausse du nombre de projets dangereux arrivant sur le marché? Verrons-nous des problèmes touchant la sécurité des aliments ou des médicaments ? Pouvons-nous nous attendre à des problèmes si une nouvelle pandémie éclate au Canada? » a demandé le président de l'ACEP.

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## De nouveaux représentants pour les élèves à la table du Conseil!

Dans le but d'avoir de nouveaux élèves-conseillers ou élèves-conseillères pour la prochaine année scolaire, des élèves-délégués des sept écoles secondaires du CSDCEO ont élu Rebecca Bradley, de l'École secondaire catholique régionale de Hawkesbury (ESCRH), et Cédéric Ladouceur, de l'École secondaire catholique La Citadelle de Cornwall, à titre de représentants à la table du Conseil pour l'année scolaire 2010-2011.

Les élèves-conseillers représentent les élèves des deux dernières années des cycles intermédiaire et supérieur des écoles catholiques de langue française, pendant les réunions du Conseil.

Rebecca Bradley est une élève de 11<sup>e</sup> année à l'ESCRH. Elle est très engagée dans les activités sportives de son école et au sein du *Parlement des élèves*. Elle a également participé au programme *Vers un Apprentissage Autonome (VAA)*.

Cédéric Ladouceur est un élève de 12<sup>e</sup> année à l'École secondaire catholique La Citadelle. Il siège au sein du *Gouvernement des élèves* de son école en tant que ministre des communications.



Rebecca Bradley de l'École secondaire catholique régionale de Hawkesbury et Cédéric Ladouceur de l'École secondaire catholique La Citadelle de Cornwall, ont été élus à titre d'élève-conseillère et d'élève-conseiller pour l'année scolaire 2010-2011.

Cette page d'information vous est offerte grâce à un partenariat entre le Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien et le quotidien LeDroit.

LEDROIT, LE JEUDI 15 AVRIL 2010



Conseil scolaire de  
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Les écoles catholiques de langue française du CSDCEO offrent des programmes pour la réussite de tous les élèves, tant au palier élémentaire que secondaire. Avec un meilleur départ dans nos garderies et centres éducatifs, nos élèves acquièrent des valeurs catholiques, une excellente maîtrise du français et un bilinguisme de haut niveau.

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15 avril 2010 | Le Droit | ALEXANDERALEXANDERPANETTA PANETTA LA La PRESSE Presse Canadienne  
CANADIENNE DAKAR, DAKAR —

# Michaëlle Jean confirme son départ

## Un règne teinté de controverse

Michaëlle Jean a confirmé, hier, que son mandat de cinq ans à titre de gouverneure générale du Canada ne serait pas prolongé au-delà de sa conclusion prévue en septembre, signalant ainsi de façon officielle la fin d'un chapitre animé dans l'histoire d'une institution traditionnellement sclérosée.

Le règne de Mme Jean a débuté dans la controverse en raison des soupçons de souverainisme qui pesaient sur elle ; le jour de son investiture, elle a effectué quelques pas de danse spontanés au Parlement ; elle a soulevé une autre controverse en éviscérant un phoque fraîchement abattu avant d'en retirer le coeur, qu'elle a ensuite mangé cru, au Nunavut ; elle a pleuré en public pour sa terre haïtienne d'origine ; et elle a suscité des réactions d'admiration à l'étranger.

Selon les résultats d'un récent sondage, Mme Jean conclut son mandat à des niveaux de popularité élevés qui feraient l'envie d'à peu près n'importe quelle figure publique.

En coulisses, on chuchotait que le gouvernement fédéral était à la recherche d'un successeur. Hier, Mme Jean a confirmé le secret le plus mal gardé dans les milieux politiques canadiens : son mandat ne sera pas prolongé, comme cela avait d'ailleurs été le cas pour celle qui l'avait précédée, Adrienne Clarkson.

Mme Jean a rendu publique la nouvelle lors d'un entretien avec des journalistes canadiens à bord d'un avion, peu avant son arrivée au Sénégal, où elle a entrepris un séjour officiel d'une durée de 10 jours en Afrique.

Fin septembre

« Je suis très concentrée en ce moment sur ce que je dois accomplir d'ici à la conclusion de mon mandat, qui arrivera à la fin de septembre », a déclaré Mme Jean.

« J'ai été nommée pour cinq ans. Et la fin (de mon mandat) aura lieu au moment du cinquième anniversaire de l'investiture, en septembre », a-t-elle ajouté.

Quelques dizaines de personnes, parmi lesquelles certaines dansaient, ont accueilli Mme Jean à l'aéroport de Dakar. Cet accueil était beaucoup plus réservé que celui qu'elle avait reçu lors de sa première visite en Afrique, en 2006, alors que des dizaines de milliers de personnes s'étaient déplacées pour la voir au Mali.

Lors du présent voyage, Mme Jean visitera le Sénégal jusqu'à samedi. Elle se rendra ensuite en République Démocratique du Congo, en République du Rwanda et en République du Cap-Vert.

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March 23 SUN e

## Baby boomers can't wait to downsize - their homes

By JUSTIN SADLER, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: April 15, 2010 7:02am

With rain in the forecast, it could be a soggy couple days and nights for about 20 people lined up outside a developer's sales office in Ottawa's east end.

The eager crowd is waiting for Tamarack Homes to release about 51 homes on Friday in the latest phase of development in its Chaperal community near Innes and 10th Line roads in Cumberland.

One young buyer has been waiting since Monday for a chance to snatch up a new home on a premium lot. Many of those in line were taking shifts holding places for friends or family and were too embarrassed to give their names when approached Wednesday.

All but two prospective buyers Wednesday afternoon were baby boomers, looking to get into one of only 29 smaller bungalows the developer is building.

"We want to downsize and there are only so many of these models available," said one woman who has lived in Orleans for about 30 years.

She's been waiting for about two and a half years after she missed the opportunity to purchase a home in a previous stage of the development.

"I'm retired now, but I want to stay in this community," she said.

For many waiting through the chilly night in sleeping bags and lawn chairs, their mission is an emotional one.

"These homes are part of our retirement dreams," one man said.

Many, however, questioned the developer's decision to wait until Friday when demand is obviously significant.

Tamarack salesperson Deborah Denison said the company is waiting for documents to be finalized, including a utility plan. She suggested the builder may sell homes sooner, but couldn't say when.

"Had we anticipated this much (interest), obviously we would have done things maybe differently but you never can," she said.

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Article rank | 15 Apr 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | BY CHRIS SETO

# Carleton students rally to 'save' frosh week

## Administration bid to run orientation gets angry response

Getting new students at Carleton University used to lectures and labs is important, but it shouldn't crowd out chances to meet new lifelong friends and have fun in the first week of school, says the president-elect of the undergraduate student union.



CHRIS SETO, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

**Carleton University students line up to hand letters of complaint to Carleton President Roseann O'Reilly Runte. Students are striving to keep control over this fall's frosh week activities.**

For years the Carleton University Student Association, or CUSA, along with the Rideau River Residence Association, has been organizing frosh week for first-year students. Last Thursday, a day before the start of exams, the student association received a letter from school administrators announcing that the school was assuming all responsibilities for the design and delivery of 2010's orientation week.

And so more than 150 students gathered at Carleton Wednesday to try to "save" frosh week. Alex Sirois, president-elect of CUSA, said the student group has received more than 100 letters

from volunteers and alumni expressing their disappointment in the administration's decision.

"I guess they want it to be more academically inclined," Sirois said.

But, he said, students have the next four years to learn academics. "We need people to go out there and meet the friends that they're going to know for the rest of their lives."

University spokesman Jason MacDonald said that the social element is a part of orientation, but only a part. "The other piece is also introducing some of those academic elements and helping (new students) get prepared for how different university life is from high school."

Apart from the academics, Carleton is looking to mirror other schools where frosh week is run by school administrators. "Very few universities allow orientation to be run primarily by the student groups," MacDonald said. The university is looking to partner with CUSA, while still maintaining responsibility for the week.

Discussions have also taken place online where more than 1,900 members have joined a protest group on Facebook. Many have used the discussion board to post letters to school administrators, expressing their frustration.

The student association had just finished recruiting 500 volunteers for orientation, but this support is likely to drop if administration assumes control.

"It's not what I signed up for," said Alicia Byrd, a third-year sociology and psychology major who's volunteered for the past three years. "I don't want to be part of something I don't believe in."

"Ultimately we'd like to work with the administration," Sirois said. "We'll meet with them every day if that's what it takes" to get the student groups back into the frosh plans.

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Article rank | 15 Apr 2010 | Ottawa Citizen

# Helmet-awareness strategy gets green light

The City of Ottawa will go ahead with an education and awareness strategy to better promote helmet use among children and teens. Council on Wednesday approved the strategy, which will spread the word about the effectiveness of helmets in head-injury prevention. Officials will work on community partnerships to make helmets more accessible to low-income families, and skating rink operators will promote the message. Skateboarders will also be asked to get involved. A report to councillors advised against a mandatory helmet bylaw at this time, saying it could “potentially create barriers to physical activity” when there’s a lack of adequate helmet subsidy programs or community readiness. Staff expect the startup costs of the new helmet strategy to fit within current budgets. Costs will need to be assessed as the program goes forward. Starting next year, the city plans to require children under the age of 13 to wear helmets at all city-operated indoor skating rinks. Minors must already wear helmets when they participate in city-run skating programs, or use the supervised indoor skateboard park or BMX park.

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## Councillors, mayor take wage freeze

By JON WILLING, CITY HALL BUREAU

Last Updated: April 14, 2010 10:27pm

City council members froze their wages Wednesday but refused a freeze for their office staff and other non-unionized municipal employees.

College Coun. Rick Chiarelli wanted council to approve a sweeping salary freeze which would have affected all staff whose employment isn't governed by a collective agreement.

Some councillors dismissed the motion as election-year politics, arguing there would be no savings in 2010 and that the new council elected in October could reverse any decisions they made.

But Chiarelli said a wage freeze would give city council and management some leverage when it begins negotiating collective agreements for unionized staff.

"When we sit down with unions and make our position, at least we won't look hypocritical," Chiarelli said.

Councillor salaries are about \$90,000 and the mayor makes roughly \$160,000.

Annual increases are based on the city's consumer price index or the average of municipal employee increases, whichever is less.

Councillors Georges Bedard, Jacques Legendre and Alex Cullen voted against the two-year wage freeze for council.

While council voted against freezing non-union staff wages by a vote of 12-10, it voted in favour of suspending annual bonuses for high-level managers. The bonuses would have been paid out in 2011.

The argument against freezing non-union salaries pointed to the difficulty of recruiting and retaining top talent in the city's managerial ranks.

Kanata South Coun. Peggy Feltmate said managers are frequently tested at City Hall.

"Often we want them to create miracles out of the decisions we make," Feltmate said.

Somerset Coun. Diane Holmes said the city has a "terrible time" recruiting managers and she noted the length of time it took to hire a new fire chief.

The managerial bonuses have been one of the city's "saving graces" to retain talent, Holmes added.

Chiarelli said a salary freeze for non-unionized employees would have shown the upper-tier levels of government that the city is taking a leadership role, especially after the provincial government ordered a similar pay freeze.

The council pay freeze will do for now, he said.

"I guess we have to look at it positively and say it's a good first step," Chiarelli said.

Council also voted in favour of having a study done to see how a wage freeze for city staff would affect recruitment and retention initiatives.

That vote particularly pleased city manager Kent Kirkpatrick, who told councillors it's important to know what the implications are when they tinker with compensation.

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# Algonquin College gets high satisfaction scores

## President lauds results of performance survey

Algonquin College has scored top marks among Ontario's largest colleges in the key areas of student satisfaction, graduate satisfaction and graduate employment rate, according to survey results released Wednesday.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPI) survey mandates colleges to collect data annually from students, graduates and employers.

Although college-to-college comparisons could produce misleading results because of college size, differing programs and local employment conditions, Algonquin was quick to boast about its high scores.

"It's a clear indication that we're doing some of the right things," said Robert Gillett, the college's president. "People see a college education as a very real, valid post-secondary choice."

The survey found more than 80 per cent of Algonquin students are either satisfied or very satisfied with the college's facilities, services, programs and the relevance of their program to their career.

It found 92 per cent of employers of Algonquin College graduates are either satisfied or very satisfied with how prepared students are for the type of work they're doing.

It also found that six months after completing their degrees, 88 per cent of Algonquin graduates from the class 2008-2009 had jobs.

Although Algonquin wants to offer more spaces and programming for incoming students, Gillett said it's unlikely the high survey scores will translate into the cash needed for such expansion.

Today, the college will host its eighth annual Applied Research Day, which gives the public a sneak peek at more than 50 research projects underway at the college.

"Where at one time it was a national research institution or highend universities doing research, we're now seeing a very practical, applied role for colleges," Gillett said.

Recent projects have included designing user interfaces for virtual reality applications and developing and testing the world's first WiFi-integrated mass-notification system.

La Cité collégiale, Ottawa's French-language college, also performed well on the survey. The college boasted a graduate employment rate of 88 per cent and a graduate satisfaction rate of 84. The employer satisfaction rate was 92 per cent.

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## Local colleges rank near top, survey says

By JUSTIN SADLER, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: April 14, 2010 7:49pm

Ottawa's colleges are considered by students among the best in the province, according to a provincewide accountability survey released Tuesday.

Overall, the results from the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) survey paint a positive image of Ontario colleges and their performance.

The annual report is produced by a third party for the province's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The provincial government uses the KPI Student Satisfaction results to determine funding for a small portion of each college's annual operating budget.

Of Ontario's 24 colleges, La Cite collegiale and Algonquin ranked second and third at about 82% and 81%, respectively, for overall student satisfaction.

"Our focus always has to be on the success of our students," said Lise Bourgeois, La Cite's president.

In the survey of 2008-09 graduates, the city's colleges also fared well in graduate satisfaction and employment rates compared to the provincial average. About 84% of graduates from La Cite and 82% from Algonquin were satisfied with their respective institutions and about 88% were employed six months after graduation.

Of the eight large colleges in the province, Algonquin ranked tops in student satisfaction, graduate satisfaction and graduate employment rate.

"I thought we did pretty well to be perfectly honest," Algonquin president Robert Gillett said. "Considering we were in the middle of a recession, we're growing as rapidly as we possibly can. We're facing huge fiscal challenges to meet all the needs of these students."

Both Algonquin and La Cite ranked above provincial averages in all but two areas.

The colleges fell slightly below the provincial average in employer satisfaction rate and graduation rate, which are about 93% and 65% respectively. Still, the satisfaction rate among employers who have hired graduates of Algonquin and La Cite remains high at around 92%.

About 63% of students graduated from Algonquin while 64% did so from La Cite. Over the past five years, student retention at both schools has remained rather consistent while the provincial average has crept upward by almost 5%. It's an area both colleges are working to improve.

"Most of the staff are very aware of where we have to progress, and we're going to work closely on those," Bourgeois said. "There's room for improvement everywhere all the time."

"We're targeting to get to 70% and we're going to work damn hard to get there," Gillett said.

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### The Numbers

Graduate employment

Algonquin - 87.9%



La Cite - 88.2%

Avg. - 84.8%

Graduate satisfaction

Algonquin - 82.1%

La Cite - 84.2%

Avg. - 79.8%

Employer satisfaction

Algonquin - 91.6%

La Cite - 92.2%

Avg. - 93%

Student satisfaction

Algonquin - 80.7%

La Cite - 82.3%

Avg. - 76.3%

Graduation rate

Algonquin - 62.9%

La Cite - 64.2%

Avg. - 65.1%

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# Misdirection part of Afghan girls' education plan

Trickery is used to help female students participate in a ground-breaking program in Taliban-rife villages, ETHAN BARON reports.

They tell their families they're going to religion classes or to a relative's home, but more than 400 girls and women in Taliban-rife villages are actually going to school. They are pupils in a secretive and perilous education project started by an Afghan teacher who also founded a groundbreaking, Canadian-funded female-education program in Kandahar City.



HANDOUT PHOTO

**Ehsan Ehsanullah, top, takes a question from a student during a recent class for girls and women in Zabul province.**

Though Ehsan Ehsanullah's school in the city draws frequent death threats targeting him and his students, the impassioned educator is taking his mission a step further. He is now running 29 hidden schoolrooms in Zabul, the province bordering Kandahar to the northeast, teaching basic literacy to young girls and women ranging in age from 10 to mid-40s.

In a region where conservative Pashtun values often clash violently with the education of females, Ehsanullah, 39, must resort to trickery to get his students into the private homes where they learn.

"The help we get is mainly from the mosque leader, the mullah," says Ehsanullah, a government-school and private-pupil teacher for 17 years. His assistants approach the religious leaders and get them to agree that Islamic education is necessary for girls and women.

"'It's your responsibility,' they tell them, 'They need to know how to pray.' And then later on we tell them that ... the more modern way to learn is to read, is to write things on the board or to write things in people's notebooks."

Once the classes are initiated, teachers drawn locally from the slim ranks of literate females introduce books on Pashto language and theology. Some books contain math and also teach basic hygiene practices that can be life-saving in poverty-stricken areas plagued with diseases and infections.

"We tell (the mullahs), 'Cleanliness is directed by Islam. How can they learn that if they can't write anything, can't read anything?' "

Ehsanullah made preliminary attempts to start up such schools in violent Helmand province in 2005, 2006 and 2009, but lacked money to continue. Now, funding of his above-board Kandahar school from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is allowing him to divert \$900 a month of his own income as a communications employee in a construction-project business to the secret schooling instead of to the city school.

The hidden program is now expanding rapidly, he says. Before he was able to start providing consistent funding three months ago, only a halfdozen classes were operating. Still, word has leaked into communities about the schools, and conflicts have arisen in some of the 29 communities.

Family members of students in one class showed up and caught sight of the writing boards at the front of the room and demanded to know why the girls and women were writing. Ehsanullah shut down the class.

He is no stranger to angry community reaction. He estimates he has received more than 70 death threats throughout his career. Most have come because of his work in the Kandahar school, called the Afghan-Canadian Community Center (theafghanschool.org), which received \$9,000 a month from CIDA through March and is to receive another final disbursement from the agency soon.

Some 500 girls and women and an equal number of boys and men study English, computer science and business management in the 23-room facility. Female students there also receive frequent death threats.

Seventeen-year-old Anita Taraky enrolled at the school and in the SAIT program against the protest of her brothers, who worried about Taliban threats against students. Her mother supported her wish for schooling, and Taraky speaks of the Taliban with defiance.

"I don't care about them, I don't care about their warnings," she says. "I just want to go and get education, for the service of my country and my life."

In Calgary, SAIT instructor Tom Kuzma wakes up once a week for a 4 a.m. Skype call to Kandahar. He delivers to 15 to 20 female students real-time business-communication lessons via a computer monitor hooked up to a screen projector. He talks to them, takes questions, and projects PowerPoint presentations.

"They see it as a golden opportunity," Kuzma says. "It increases their job opportunities a lot, so they're pretty keen."

Ehsanullah says about 200 girls and women from the Kandahar school have landed jobs paying \$600 to \$1,000 per month in a region where few women are employed, and the average job pays \$60 to \$100 per month.

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Article rank | 15 Apr 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | ELIZABETH PAYNE Elizabeth Payne is a member of the Citizen's editorial board. E-mail: epayne@thecitizen.canwest.com

# Schools no longer ring with music

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*Once considered an important part of education, music is now more likely to be an add-on, if that.*

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Books, pencils, desks and a piano. There was a time when — along with teachers — those were key components in almost every school in Canada. As long as students had a place to sit, books to read, pencils to write with and a piano to gather around, learning could happen. Take one of those components away, and you were in trouble.

Times have changed since pianos were considered basic tools of education.

You will still see them tucked into the corners of most schools. Depending on who is on staff, and how much musical interest and time they have, the pianos may get wheeled out for special occasions, for choir (at the schools that still have them), for talent shows and concerts, even for occasional music lessons. They may be tuned regularly and cared for. Or, they may simply gather dust, especially at elementary schools that no longer have dedicated music teachers.

At at least one school in rural Eastern Ontario, the piano was gathering so much dust that drastic action was taken.

Lynda Southam, who chairs the school committee of the Prescott-based Fort Town Concert Association, which brings classical music to area students, said she was shocked to hear from a janitor at one area school about the fate of its pianos. Nobody was using them and no one wanted them, the janitor said, so he chopped them up.

"I used to say (to schools involved in the program) 'Just make sure your piano is tuned.' Now I tell musicians to bring a keyboard. ... The pianos are disappearing," said Southam.

The relegation of pianos to dusty corners — or worse — parallels the fate of music in schools. Once considered an important part of education, music is now more likely to be an add-on, if that.

Proponents of music education have long wrung their hands about the declining amount of — and quality of — music in schools. In Ottawa, advocates say music education for some elementary school children doesn't extend much past singing O Canada — or listening to a recorded version of it. The loss of music as a significant part of education is a loss to all students, say music education advocates, but particularly for children from lower income homes or from remote areas. They are less likely to take private music lessons, with the result that swaths of Canadian society have very limited exposure to music education and, especially, to classical music.

Does that make a difference? Just look at Venezuela's world-famous El Sistema program that has turned the lives of poor children around with classical music training.

If there are challenges exposing urban Canadian students to music, those challenges are multiplied in rural and remote parts of the province. Schools are often small, with small budgets and little scope for fundraising, and travelling to concerts is prohibitively expensive.

In Prescott and area, the Fort Town Concert Association, which was founded in 1982 to bring live classical performances to the community several times a year, is increasingly extending its reach to area schools where the need is great. The organization is connected with Jeunesse Musicales, whose mandate is to expose students to classical music and to promote musicians in early stages of their careers.

The partnership, and some dedicated fundraising, means students in Prescott and many small communities surrounding it are regularly seeing classical music performances.

This week, hundreds of students from around the area were bused to Prescott's St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to watch a musical performance called All Aboard to Planet Alloy, about a planet in which all communication is done through music.

The concert association also sends performers from Jeunesse Musicales to schools throughout the area.

Sometimes, said Southam, the exposure to classical music is appreciated by the teachers as much as it is by the students. "I never heard that kind of music before," one teacher told her after a performance. "I want you to know, I really like it."

The Prescott music association's reach to area schools is part of a growing public response to the decline of music in public education in the province and across the country.

In Ottawa, the Leading Note Foundation raises money to provide music lessons to dozens of children through its OrKidstra and KidSingers programs.

Jeunesse Musicales Ontario helps bring music into schools in Eastern Ontario and around the province. It is sending musical performers to Hornepayne, Hurst and other remote parts of the province this spring, among other places.



For supporters of musical education, it is an area in which the province — for all its focus on improving the academic performance of public schools — continues to get a failing grade.

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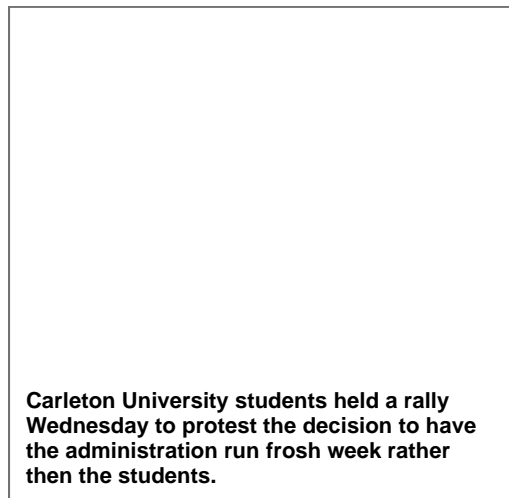
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## Students protest over frosh week

By AEDAN HELMER, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: April 14, 2010 4:03pm



**Carleton University students held a rally Wednesday to protest the decision to have the administration run frosh week rather than the students.**

Carleton University president Roseann O'Reilly Runte was besieged by students demanding administration relinquish control over the traditionally student-run frosh week festivities at a campus protest Wednesday.

Runte declined interview requests, but in an e-mail circulated to students, she explained the university's decision to take control over orientation week was motivated by a desire to provide a "more balanced transition to university life for incoming students," and said there was an issue with "accountability."

"As an administrator, I cannot simply close my eyes to substantiated reports of behaviour which could both be offensive and place students in danger," said Runte in an e-mail sent to students Wednesday morning.

Incoming Carleton University Students' Association president Alex Sirois said administration took issue with last year's festivities, complaining to CUSA about the "over-sexualization of the environment" and events they considered "borderline hazing."

Sirois said accountability has never been an issue in the decades CUSA has had control over frosh, and said administration praised organizers of last year's event, calling it "the one best ever run."

"For them to praise us and then take it away is ridiculous," said Sirois.

"We'd love to work with administration to make (frosh) successful, and that's what we want to see happen."

About 200 students took part in the protest before marching inside the university to stage a sit-in at Runte's office.

Students hand delivered letters of protest to Runte, who spoke privately with students who approached her with their concerns.

Several hundred students also signed a pledge to withdraw volunteer support of any administration-run frosh.

The orientation week traditionally relies on the support of more than 500 student volunteers.

Runte said administration has always intended to involve CUSA in the planning and delivery of the festivities, and said student participation is "critical" to the orientation week.

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Article rank | 15 Apr 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | RANDALL DENLEY COMMENTARY

# U of O budget worries faculty, students

## Dispute \$25M deficit and say cost-saving measures are not in the best interests of education

University of Ottawa president Allan Rock has a plan to balance the university's budget, but he has a long way to go to convince the key constituencies on campus that his approach makes sense. Faculty and student groups strongly oppose proposals to cut spending and are mounting a strong campaign to block the cuts.

The university is facing significant deficits next year and the year after, so senior administration appointed a committee of professors and financial experts to pull together suggestions on how to make up the shortfall. The majority of the spending-reduction proposals affect students and faculty and include increased class sizes, elimination of vacant teaching positions and reductions in student scholarship support.

Rock has already conducted 18 town hall meetings on campus to explain the problem and the possible solutions, but skepticism remains high. Neither the faculty nor student groups are convinced that there is a \$25million deficit because the administration has not detailed what it consists of or how it came about, they say.

"We'd like to know if there really is a deficit and what the real number is," says Micheline Lessard, president of the association of professors.



The association has developed its own analysis of the proposed changes. About 65 per cent of them will come at the expense of reduced students and faculty, says Lessard.

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Article rank | 15 Apr 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | Contact Randall Denley at 613-596-3756 or by e-mail, [rdenley@thecitizen.canwest.com](mailto:rdenley@thecitizen.canwest.com)

# Denley: Priorities needed, union says

The proposed changes certainly won't make things better for students, she says, although that is a stated goal of the university administration.

"What really concerns the professors here is the quality of our programs," Lessard says.

The professors note that administrative spending is rising far faster than overall university expenditures. Between 2007-08 and 2009-10, administrative costs went up 23.7 per cent compared to an overall spending increase of eight per cent, the professors say. The university disputes those numbers. In the plan for cuts, the reduction in administration includes things such as taking credit for positions already abolished and making assumptions about salary and benefit savings that are subject to collective bargaining, Lessard says.

It was a mistake to impose cuts of five per cent across the board, Lessard says. The university should be determining what its priorities are and spending accordingly, not cutting everything.

One would naturally expect skepticism at a university, but Lessard says in her opinion, "there is a general mistrust" of senior administration. That's the reason why very few professors chose to get involved in the budget balancing process, she suggests.

Sean Kelly is president of the union that represents student academic workers. He says "only the top administrators were consulted" in the preparation of the budget cutting report. The various groups representing students are also skeptical of the magnitude of the deficit, Kelly says. Students haven't been properly consulted, and yet they will bear the brunt of the cuts, he says.

Students oppose the administration's proposed cuts because they say that classes are already too large and there are too few professors. Next year, students will face five-per-cent higher tuition along with a five-per-cent cut in what they get for their money, says Seamus Wolfe, president of the undergraduate student group.

The service cuts "will do nothing but destroy the quality of education on our campus in a way that will be hard to change in the long term," Wolfe says.

The graduate students have also joined the fight. Spokesman Gaétan-Philippe Beaulière says "this means paying more for less." The graduate students have mounted an e-mail campaign aimed at convincing the board of governors not to approve changes that negatively affect students. Undergraduates are joining in, and Beaulière says about 750 responses have been sent so far.

In their letter, the students say: "These wrongheaded decisions will increase the likelihood that potential students will look elsewhere for their education. We are indeed cutting into essentials as opposed to truly optimizing resources and improving the quality of education."

The university's vice-president of governance, Diane Davidson, has attempted to undermine the letterwriting campaign by advising board members to disregard the flood of messages. Perhaps not the wisest response.

Given all of this, Rock finds himself in a difficult position. The university has to balance its budget. It is impossible to do that without affecting teaching and students. The array of budget-balancing cuts is unpalatable to the key constituencies on campus and they will make things worse for students.



Given all of that, Rock still responded to an earlier column on the subject with an e-mail to everyone at the university that downplayed the problem and what needs to be done. It certainly wasn't his best shot. More on that Saturday.

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# Twitter signs up more than 100 million users

Microblogging sensation Twitter has signed up more than 100 million users and hopes to snag hundreds of millions more in coming years by making the service easier and more accessible. At the company's first conference for Twitter developers on Wednesday, chief executive officer Evan Williams said generating revenue was among its key priorities, a change of tone for a firm that had previously said it focused on improving the user experience.

The comments come a day after Twitter introduced an advertising program dubbed "Promoted Tweets," its first attempt to make money from its service and a milestone on the path toward an initial public offering.

Twitter co-founder Biz Stone said Twitter now has roughly 105 million registered users. According to presentation slides, Twitter drew 180 million monthly unique visitors on its site, suggesting that Twitter may be more popular than previously believed. According to comScore, Twitter had 69.5 million unique visitors to its site in February.

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