

# Education City

**ALGONQUIN**  
COLLEGE

 **Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY  
Canada's Capital University

**LA CITÉ**   
LE COLLÈGE D'ARTS APPLIQUÉS  
ET DE TECHNOLOGIE

 **uOttawa**

## **Education City – innovation in preparing graduates for lifelong learning and employability in the Ottawa region**

**Imagine** ... harnessing the power and potential of college and university education

**Imagine** ... combining the possibilities of enhanced on-line learning while in employment to complete your postsecondary education

**Imagine** ... a seamless ladder structure that provides on-going skills training and adaptation to remain current in our ever-changing world

That is the vision of **Education City** – a bi-lingual, collaborative effort among Algonquin College, Carleton University, collège La Cité and the University of Ottawa to explore the possibilities of creating a new approach to higher education.

Working with *Invest Ottawa* and representatives of the not-for-profit, government and business, we will explore ways to create a more flexible, ladder approach to education that will enhance and promote employability skills, foster the development of entrepreneurial activities and provided a platform for life-long learning, skills re-retraining and re-tooling to adapt to societal demands.

In a recent study, the Royal Bank of Canada identified that there will be a phenomenal shift in the labour force as the advent and implementation of automation and artificial intelligence touches and changes every aspect of our lives. As more traditional forms of work are replaced by automated function, they expect that more than 300,000 jobs will be created. But these new jobs will require entirely new skill sets and abilities. Canada faces a phenomenal challenge in re-tooling its current workforce but the pace of change is only expected to accelerate. It is vital to develop new approaches to postsecondary education that generate a new cohort of graduates who not only have skills for immediate employment but have an ingrained expectation that they will have to upgrade and adapt their skills throughout their lives to stay current and meet the changing demands for an effective workforce. The Royal Bank anticipated that with the current pace of change, employees will need to upgrade their skills once every five years in the foreseeable future. We need to create educational processes that meet these challenges.

In addition, **Education City** will look to create a series of research shops across the City focused on particular industries, businesses or government activities to provide an interface between employers and students for innovative suggestions to challenging dilemmas. By working together, the four institutions will also look for ways to share resources, improve support for minority students and find efficiencies through sharing best practices.