

For Immediate Release

October 11, 2011

Cégep Heritage College in total disagreement with the new budget cuts in the CEGEP network

Gatineau, October 11, 2011 - Although negotiations between the *Fédération des cégeps* and the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* have reduced the additional budget cuts in the CEGEP system from the \$ 29.8 million announced this past September to \$ 19.8 million, Cégep Heritage College remains in total disagreement with this new compression that is added to the recurring reduction of \$ 31.3 million incurred by the network last May. What's more, this new cut is announced after the school year has started and after budgets have been adopted and resources committed.

The recurrent reduction announced in May represents \$ 130 500 for our institution, and the new compression, \$ 165 000. In 2010, Bill 100 had already imposed cuts that, during the 2010-2011 to 2014-2015 period, represent a budget cut of approximately \$ 95 000 for the College, as well as the erosion of our staff due to forced personnel attrition of 1 out of 2 positions.

Cégep Heritage College practices sound and responsible management of its resources. However, given the magnitude of the cuts suffered in less than two years, it is very difficult to see how our budgets can be compressed even more in the short term without having an impact on student services, which is in total contradiction with the government discourse to the effect that education is the priority.

Cégep Heritage College joins the other CEGEPs in asking the government to stop its approach of quickly alternating periods of reinvestment and compression. "We need to establish a longer-term planning cycle with the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport* in order to establish the much needed financial stability required for us to meet the skilled manpower needs of the Outaouais, maintain quality education and carry out projects that will benefit our student population" indicated Louise Brunet, Director General.

About Cégep Heritage College - One of 48 cégeps in Québec, Cégep Heritage College is the only English-Language Cégep in western Quebec. We offer five pre-university programs and 8 technical programs.

Quality education, small classes, a friendly atmosphere, and dynamic extra-curricular and social activities make Cégep Heritage College the perfect place to study and meet new friends. The College's modern facilities on the edge of scenic Gatineau Park feature a gymnasium, fitness centre, dance studio, comprehensive library, and 156-seat auditorium. Its spacious campus grounds include a large soccer field, basketball court, beach volleyball courts, biking and hiking paths.

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