

# PRESS RELEASE



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## ***Larry Smith President of the Montreal Alouettes Addresses Vanier College Business students***

Learning how to be a business leader takes more than just theory in the classroom, it requires role models who can tell students how success really comes. That's what Larry Smith, president and CEO of the Montreal Alouettes football club will do when he addresses students enrolled in a Team Management and Leadership course which is part of the Business Administration Program at Vanier College, on Friday, October 12 at 11:45 AM in Room A-103 of Vanier College.

"An important element of this course is to have students meet with and learn from someone like Larry Smith," says Andrew Gates, a professor in the Business Administration Program. "I want the students to hear about Larry Smith's career path as an athlete, and then as a business person - what lessons he learned about being an effective leader and being an effective member of a team."

Larry Smith has enjoyed a career first as a star football player in college, then as a professional player with the Alouettes from 1972-80 where he played in 140 consecutive regular games, 13 playoff contests and five Grey Cup games, winning the national title twice. From 1992 to 1997 he served as commissioner of the CFL, and then took over as president of the Alouettes from 1997 to 2001. After two and a half years as publisher and president of *The Gazette*, he returned to the Alouettes in 2004. Over the years, Larry Smith has been actively involved and committed to community concerns and activities of all kinds.

The Team Management and Leadership course has three principal goals. It aims to have students reflect on who they are, (what kind of team players are they? what kind of leaders are they?), to reflect on what it takes to be an effective leader and team player, and to develop leadership and management skills.

Andrew Gates believes that Larry Smith will be an inspiration and will pass on important insights about team work and leadership.

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