

# PRESS RELEASE



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VANIER COLLEGE

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## ***Vanier College spends 2.8 million dollars in renovations, Upgrades and high tech classrooms***

Gilbert Héroux, the Director General of Vanier College, is proud to announce that renovations and upgrading undertaken during the past few months at Vanier College are close to completion. “Since the spring, more than 2.8 million dollars have been spent on special projects to upgrade Vanier College. This is the largest capital expenditure in many years at the College.”

Work started last April when new offices for certain departments were created. As soon as classes ended, construction crews moved in to demolish ceilings and walls and start work on entire floors of some wings of the College where they renovated classrooms and moved departments into new, more efficient locations. At least 50% of the money was spent on HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) improvements to create comfortable, climate-controlled classrooms. One entire floor where at least 20% of Vanier classes are held was redone from top to bottom.

Vanier has also installed some of the latest in high tech equipment in multimedia viewing rooms where computerized personal response systems allow teachers to ask questions and have the students point at the answer on their computer screen. “This kind of polling software intrigues and stimulates the students,” observes Cheryl Holmes, Coordinator of Library and Information Technology Centres. Some rooms have a *Sympodium* system – technology that allows a teacher to point at a screen and mark it up, much the way sports plays are demonstrated on television.

“We are ahead of many other colleges on the use of smart boards, *Sympodium*, and the extent of installations on campus,” states Cheryl Holmes, “and we are providing teachers with the most recent technology that we can accommodate in our facilities. By the end of this semester virtually every computer lab on campus will have the “*Synchron-Eyes*” software which allows teachers to decide what computer programs students have access to in the lab. No more text messaging in the classroom.”

Several academic programs have moved into completely renovated quarters outfitted with more of the latest in high tech equipment. One of the most impressive is Early Childhood Education, a very popular Vanier technology program. It now boasts a large, well-equipped early childhood laboratory with a one-way observation room for students to study children’s behaviour and interactions, a playroom with springboard flooring, and sinks and facilities installed at the height of small children, as well as a full kitchen for nutrition courses. The laboratory is equipped with state-of-the art recording and viewing equipment that allows students in the observation room to focus on an area where children are active, then turn on a microphone and video camera, and record the children’s activity for later study.

“The students just love the new facilities. Even past graduates who have visited the department are envious and claim the new students are really lucky,” states Diane Nyisztor, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education.



Security is always a priority at Vanier and the latest renovations included improving campus security facilities. As a result, security presence will have a higher profile and greater visibility on campus. Improvements include a more efficient centralized Security Command Center.

Paul Fournier, Head of Vanier Security, indicates, “With the redesign of Security Central , the platform at the dispatch centre has been raised 18” to give Security staff more visibility and to give us a better view of the main entrance to the College. As well, all viewing monitors have been placed out of view of the general public, making it more discreet and creating a more secure environment.”

In addition to the renovations, Vanier installed extra security cameras, thereby bringing the total number of security cameras on campus to one hundred and two, and has placed orders for more. The college has also hired more security guards, and will operate its mobile Security Vehicle 24 hours a day, to give a higher profile to its grounds coverage.

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