

# INTERNAL NEWS RELEASE



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## **Vanier's first Town Hall Meeting Provided a Great Start to the Fall Term**

It was Vanier's first Town Hall Meeting, and by all accounts it was a wonderful success. Close to 120 people attended the day-long consultation session held in the Amphitheatre on Wednesday August 22, 2007. Vanier is currently consulting with the entire Vanier College community to develop a new Strategic Plan, and the meeting aimed at getting the broadest possible input from Vanier staff and faculty. "I was very impressed by the level of participation and by the quality of the interventions," states Gilbert Héroux, Vanier College Director General.

"We hoped to get as many people involved in the strategic planning as possible, especially people who don't usually have the opportunity to speak and give their views," added Alena Perout, Strategic Planning Coordinator. "I was surprised by how enthusiastic people were. It was great. I heard from different people than I usually do."

After a brief welcome by Director General, Gilbert Héroux, participants went off in groups of twelve to discuss one of three topics. Topic #1 addressed Vanier College in Five Years: what goals should the College achieve in terms of enrolment, programs, accessibility, quality of education, infrastructure and resources and faculty and staff retention and recruitment. Topic #2 discussed the Vanier Learning and Teaching Environment: what support in equipment, training or other resources could the College offer to maximize student success and services to students, to support Faculty and staff, and to stimulate an intellectual environment. Topic #3 looked at Outreach and Partnerships and made suggestions on how Vanier College could improve its presence and role in the community, including the importance of Continuing Education and Vanier's cultural diversity.

Jim Munro of Cont Ed was still brimming with excitement a few days after the meeting. "It was fantastic. This was the first time we could express our opinion on the future of the College, and I think people were really enthusiastic. Our group is still communicating. There just wasn't enough time to cover everything properly."

Alena Perout echoes Jim's comments, "We had really good recorders in each group who have sent us their reports. Some groups have even decided to meet again, while others are continuing to discuss via email." She indicates that the next step will consist in finding topics needing further discussion and pass them onto to the Strategic Planning sub-committees. "One of the complaints was the lack of time," says Alena "so we'll probably try to do something again in the future, centering on narrower topics and covering a full day of activity. But right now, we don't know when."

She further indicated that "An added bonus of the Town Hall Meeting was that people appreciated the opportunity to meet colleagues from other departments whom they had never met before." Participants were able to pursue such new acquaintances at the BBQ of burgers and corn that followed the meeting.

Gilbert Héroux concludes, "This was the start of the open consultation process, and it can take any form members of the Vanier Community want it to take. That means that if enough people are interested, we can hold another Town Hall Meeting."

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