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50th Anniversary of the Creation of CEGEPS

Vanier College Marks Special Occasion With Opening of New Facilities and Enhancement of Its Campus

Montreal, August 21st 2017- Vanier College is proud to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of CEGEPS with the opening of new facilities that will enhance its already beautiful campus.

When classes officially start on August 21st Vanier students heading back to school will discover new facilities designed to enhance their educational experience. At the top of the list is the new \$4.4 million Learning Commons/Library that will be officially inaugurated on August 23. The new facility includes new office space for library service technicians and professionals, an archive room, new resources, more computers and electrical outlets for students' personal computers as well as seating for over 600 students for study and work.

As well, Nursing and Respiratory Technology students will find a new multidisciplinary simulation lab equipped with new high tech patient simulator mannequins that will allow students to learn critical intensive care interventions. Other important renovations will take place at Vanier after the college received funding of \$1.5 million from the Federal Government's Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF Funding) in December 2016. The funds will cover the renovation of the Animal Health Technology facilities and the renovation of Chemistry labs with work scheduled to start this fall. These renovations will help ensure Vanier continues to develop highly skilled graduates who are ready for the job market and who are well equipped for their university studies.

"The beginning of classes in 2017 at Vanier also marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Cegep system, which is unique to Quebec. Cegeps truly brought about a revolution in education in our province. They opened up advanced education to everyone and led to the evolution of the province through a rich offering of pre-university programs and more than 125 technical programs that prepare students for the job market and university studies – technical programs that have in fact created jobs and career possibilities that did not exist prior to the creation of Cegeps.," said Vanier's Director General John McMahon.

A number of events will take place this coming year to celebrate this landmark. Among them will be the release of videos of Cegep alumni or ambassadors commenting on what Cegep meant to them and a comprehensive advertising campaign in collaboration with the Fédération des Cegeps, extolling their benefits over the last 50 years.

"Just as important, for 50 years, in smaller communities and the outlying regions of Quebec, Cegeps have been centers of learning and research as well as essential motors of economic activity. To date 2 million Cegep graduates have benefitted from the wonderful access to higher learning they enjoy at Vanier and other Cegeps throughout the province. What an outstanding achievement," said Vanier's Academic Dean Annie-Claude Banville.