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## Conestoga College to begin offering programs in downtown Brantford

BRANTFORD – Max Blouw, president and vice-chancellor of Wilfrid Laurier University, was joined by John Tibbits, president of Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, and Chris Friel, mayor of the City of Brantford, on Feb. 27 to announce that Conestoga will begin offering business programming in downtown Brantford in September.

The programs include a two-year business diploma program and a one-year post-graduate certificate in Human Resources Management, with plans to offer additional programs in the areas of business, media, health and community service in the future.

Conestoga joins Wilfrid Laurier University, Nipissing University and Mohawk College in downtown Brantford, enhancing the developing 'academic district' and further providing opportunities for post-secondary education.

"Conestoga has a long history of delivering relevant, career-focused learning programs that develop the skills and knowledge that lead to personal and professional success," said Tibbits. "We are tremendously pleased to have this opportunity to work with the City of Brantford and our educational partners for the benefit of the local community."

"We have long enjoyed a strong relationship with Conestoga, and we welcome them to Brantford," said Blouw. "Our innovative post-secondary partnerships continue to benefit the students, the institutions and the community."

Friel emphasized that Brantford is the leading city in Canada to revitalize its community through education.

"As a community and as partners, we continue to engage and support the development of a unique solution to reinventing our downtown, one that continues to grow, prosper and present ongoing benefits to our community," said Friel. "The presence of Conestoga College will not only enhance the post-secondary opportunities to our citizens and our ability to attract and retain businesses, but also contributes to showcasing Brantford as a Centre of Excellence."

Consistently ranked among the very best of Ontario's colleges for graduate employment and satisfaction, Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning provides a comprehensive range of education and training programs to meet the needs of post-secondary and adult learners. Approximately 55,000 students are engaged in diploma, degree, apprenticeship, certificate and continuing education studies each year through campuses in Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph, Cambridge, Stratford and Ingersoll.

This announcement addresses one of the recommendations made in the recent economic impact report, which recommended that the city and its partners prioritize the identification and engagement of a new college partner. For more information on this report, please visit: http://www.wlu.ca/news\_detail.php?grp\_id=37&nws\_id=8992.

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