

College breaking ground for new centre

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As excavators and pile drivers build momentum at the Penticton campus of Okanagan College, so does community support to help build the \$28-million college expansion.

The college officially breaks ground today at 12:30 p.m. at the site of the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation.

The groundbreaking comes with support from two new major donors to the community fundraising campaign: PCL Constructors and BMO Financial Group.

PCL has announced it will contribute \$100,000 to support programs at the centre when it is complete. BMO is making one of its largest donations in the bank's history in Penticton – a \$75,000 gift to help fund what will become the South Okanagan's greenest and most sustainable building.

With federal and provincial government support of \$23 million, the Okanagan College Foundation has launched a campaign to generate the remaining \$5 million required to build the centre. Donations from PCL and BMO Financial Group have given the campaign a healthy start and have helped contribute

to a total of about \$379,000 raised so far.

"The contributions of PCL and BMO Financial Group mean a great deal to Okanagan College," said president Jim Hamilton. "We have been fortunate to build strong partnerships with both organizations, and their support for the Centre of Excellence places them among our most valued and community-minded leaders."

PCL was selected by the college as the contractor for the project, which is on schedule to be completed in early 2011. The centre will provide new opportunities for students with the

inclusion of such programs as geothermal, onsite alternative energy sources and life cycle site management.

Jim Henderson, who is spearheading the local fundraising campaign on behalf of the Okanagan College Foundation, sees the donations as a sign of growing community support for the innovative building.

"Momentum is starting to build in this campaign, and I think that is a result of the unique and inspiring features of the building as well as recognition of the economic and social impact this new Centre will have on the South Okanagan region," said Henderson.