

**PRESS RELEASE
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LISE BOURGEOIS, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF LA CITÉ, TO STEP DOWN AT THE END OF HER MANDATE IN 2024

Ottawa, September 13, 2023 – On August 30, Lise Bourgeois, President and CEO of Collège La Cité, submitted to Lise Cloutier, Chair of the College's Board of Governors, notice of her retirement at the end of her mandate in June 2024, as provided for in the extension of her mandate by the Board in June 2022.

"On behalf of my colleagues of the Board, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Lise for her vision, leadership and unwavering commitment to ensure La Cité is an institution recognized for the quality of its graduates and a leader in francophone Ontario" said Lise Cloutier, Chair of the Board. "After more than 14 years in office, her impressive track record at the helm of La Cité is a legacy to her many achievements which have positioned the College on a trajectory of continuous improvement, ensuring a most promising and successful future. We extend our deep appreciation to this outstanding leader who reflects the very best of leadership by women and Franco-Ontarians. Her passion for education, her devotion to the Francophonie and her great human qualities will have a positive impact on our community for generations to come."

Ms. Bourgeois joined La Cité in March 2010, after working for over 30 years in the field of education. When she was appointed, she wanted her new role to benefit the lives of the thousands of people who choose La Cité as a stepping-stone to a rewarding career, and to contribute to the common good of our society. It is with enthusiasm and determination that she pursued, at the postsecondary level, the mission set had set herself at the very start of her career: to offer the best possible student experience to those who wish to successfully continue their studies in French.

From her first moments at La Cité, Ms. Bourgeois instituted two key principles that guided her throughout her career in education: first, that every student, regardless of background, represents a talent worth developing, enriching the pool of workers in the labour market; and second, that innovation and creativity are essential to ensure the vitality and sustainability of a Francophone postsecondary institution.

Under her leadership, La Cité has reached unprecedented heights:

- the enrollment of a record of 6 500 students in its many programs;
- the opening of a unique technological and entrepreneurial immersive pavilion - *l'Excentricité*;
- the development of nimble and flexible delivery models making training accessible throughout Ontario and Canada;
- the enhancement of La Cité's learning experience through a relevant and innovative pedagogical transformation;
- the creation of several new programs, including a 2nd specialized baccalaureate, the 4-year Baccalaureat in Nursing;
- the significant expansion of the applied research sector, a leader in its field;
- the recognition of La Cité, for the past 12 years, as one of the National Capital Region's top employers;
- the implementation of a culture of collaboration and service approach for the well-being of the entire college community.

During her tenure, Ms. Bourgeois promoted the College's creativity, innovation and access capacity, considerably raising La Cité's profile and engagement within the community. She also forged important partnerships enabling her to seize opportunities that helped the College stand out amongst francophone institutions and she leveraged the institution's capacity to innovate in the search for and implementation of best solutions.

Lise Bourgeois led the College by ensuring its programming and services were relevant and of the highest quality, which resulted in La Cité's consistent performance amongst the best colleges in the province.

"It is with deep emotion that I will leave at the end of my mandate on June 30, 2024, a college that I profoundly care for. It will also be with tremendous pride in the many achievements of this great and beautiful college, whose reputation now extends beyond our borders," said Lise Bourgeois. "I've had the privilege of working with a team of extraordinary leaders and dedicated staff members, with whom I've been able to play the role of a conductor in all the transformations put in place to ensure the success of our students, who have always been my top priority".

Ms. Cloutier, Chair of the Board of Governors, indicates that the process to appoint Ms. Bourgeois' successor as President and CEO of the College will begin shortly.

As the largest French-language College of Applied Arts and Technology in Ontario and outside of Quebec, La Cité puts the success of its students first and foremost, offering them more than 140 programs in facilities with leading-edge technology and a learning environment focused on practical, modern, forward-looking experiential learning practices. In addition to having its main campus in Ottawa, La Cité also has a Skilled Trades Institute in Orléans, a satellite campus in Toronto, in Hawkesbury and in Ottawa West.

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