



Kawacatoose
First Nation



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kawacatoose, SIAST partnership celebrated

SIAST to deliver nursing education in Quinton

October 22, 2009 – The Kawacatoose First Nation and SIAST have reached an agreement that will see several SIAST nursing courses and programs delivered to students from Kawacatoose and neighbouring bands. This 10-year agreement covers pre-nursing courses and Practical Nursing and Basic Diabetes Education for Health Care Providers programs. It expands upon a previous three-year agreement whereby SIAST provided its Practical Nursing programming.

The pre-nursing courses are currently being delivered at the Asiniw-Kisik Education Campus in Quinton, Saskatchewan, with 25 students currently participating. The Practical Nursing and Basic Diabetes programs will be offered onsite starting in September 2010 and May 2012 respectively.

"I am very proud of the partnership that Kawacatoose First Nation has established with SIAST," states Chief Dustyhorn, Kawacatoose First Nation. "I encourage all First Nation youth to get their education, stay in school and take all the training out there to help them succeed in their future endeavours."

This ongoing partnership is just one example of SIAST's commitment to expanding nursing education within the province and providing quality programming to First Nation communities.

"Increasing the accessibility of nursing education to students within the province is a priority of SIAST," says Netha Dyck, SIAST dean of Nursing. "SIAST's partnership with Kawacatoose gives First Nation students the opportunity to study nursing close to home and take advantage of health care employment opportunities, a benefit to both the students and the health care community."

The Kawacatoose First Nation and SIAST held a ceremony to celebrate the agreement. Representatives from both partners participated in the event.

The Kawacatoose First Nation, located near Raymore, about an hour's drive north of Regina, is part of the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council. It has a population of 2,755, including 874 people living on-reserve. More than 80 Kawacatoose First Nation young people attend high school on-reserve.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. More than 13,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws almost 32,000 individual course registrations. It operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

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Information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.