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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal Lake Cree Nation, SIAST sign MOU

Agreement covers SIAST Natural Resources programming

June 8, 2006 – The Montreal Lake Cree Nation and SIAST signed a memorandum of understanding at SIAST Woodland Campus this afternoon. The partnership will see SIAST's Natural Resources training provided to Montreal Lake Cree Nation students at Candle Lake, Saskatchewan.

"Montreal Lake Cree Nation leadership have placed a high priority on servicing the training, employment and economic development needs of our community," said Chief Lionel Bird. "With the signing of this agreement, we will ensure that our students receive higher education closer to home."

"By working together, Montreal Lake Cree Nation and SIAST can achieve more than either one of our organizations could accomplish alone," said Dr. Bob McCulloch, SIAST president and CEO. "Today's agreement is an excellent fit with several SIAST priorities, for example, including enhanced access and responsiveness to students."

Delivery of the Natural Resources core programming will begin in September. Students will work towards credit for the first year of the two-year Natural Resource diploma programs. Students will receive training in forest ecosystem sciences, terrestrial and aquatic ecology, and the principles and application of environmental laws required for environmental technicians, foresters and field officers.

Montreal Lake Cree Nation, an affiliate of the Prince Albert Grand Council, is situated in northern Saskatchewan approximately 100 kilometers north of Prince Albert. Montreal Lake Cree Nation is comprised of Montreal Lake Reserve 106A and Little Red Reserve 106B, and includes members living in Timber Bay, Weyakwin, Prince Albert and other urban areas. Total membership is 3,181.

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 12,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws almost 29,000 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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