

MEDIA RELEASE

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Doors open on student family housing at SIAST Woodland Campus

Ribbon cutting officially opens new 36-unit housing complex

October 16, 2009 - SIAST's first student housing was officially unveiled at a ribbon cutting ceremony at SIAST Woodland Campus this morning. The townhouse-style units include 10 buildings with 34 two-bedroom, single-family units and two wheelchair-accessible suites.

The project is intended for full-time SIAST Woodland Campus students with children, and will provide them with quality, safe and affordable rental accommodation while they attend their program of choice. The student family housing project is expected to draw a number of families from central and northern Saskatchewan. As a result, the project should further increase the participation and success of Aboriginal students in post-secondary education.

"We are pleased to have contributed over \$3 million to this affordable student housing project in Prince Albert," Social Services Minister and Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation Donna Harpauer said. "Housing affordability and availability is a top priority for our government, and we are pleased to help SIAST support the students who will soon call these units home."

"The Saskatchewan Government is pleased to support this initiative by SIAST," Advanced Education, Employment and Labour Minister Rob Norris said. "This is an important investment in our students and their families, and in the future of Saskatchewan."

"We wouldn't be here today without the support of both private and public sector partners," says SIAST President and CEO Dr. Robert G. McCulloch. "We are very fortunate that all three levels of government, including two provincial ministries – Advanced Education and Social Services – stood behind this project. Cameco and Northern Lights Community Development Corporation were also instrumental in making

the project a reality. All partners share our commitment to supporting both the recruitment and retention of students at SIAST."

The \$6.8-million complex included funding from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation with \$3.3 million, Northern Lights Community Development Corporation with \$250,000, Cameco with \$200,000 and the City of Prince Albert with \$180,000.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, provided an additional \$180,000 earlier this year to help furnish the units and provide appliances.

A student enrolled in the Correctional Studies program and his family from Broadview are the first tenants in the new complex. They moved in yesterday. A Practical Nursing student and her family from Lucky Lake have also moved into one of the units.

The Prince Albert Housing Authority will manage the housing complex on behalf of SIAST. Applications for the units can be picked up on campus or through the PA Housing Authority.

Construction on the project was on time and under budget. Mechanical system testing, landscaping and fencing were completed over the last couple of weeks.

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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For more information, contact:

Clayton Cunningham
SIAST Communications
Phone: (306)765-1653 Mobile: (306) 961-3036

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