



SIAS

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

Editors: See Backgrounder for additional details.

SIAS-SGEU mediation date set

SGEU and SIAS agreed on mediator last week

December 15, 2010 – Mediation between SIAS and the bargaining committees representing its unionized employees is set to begin next week.

SIAS and the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union (SGEU) agreed last week on a mediator to help the two sides reach new collective agreements. Through the mediator, they have now agreed on a start date for the process – Tuesday, Dec. 21.

“SIAS is very much looking forward to the start of mediation,” says Gary Earles, SIAS’s associate vice president, human resources. “We’re committed to the process as a way to reach collective agreements with the bargaining committees representing our employees.”

– 30 –

For more information, contact:

Patricia Gillies

SIAS Communications

306-659-3782, 306-230-9233 (cell)

Information about SIAS can be found at www.goSIAS.com.

CONTRACT TALKS BACKGROUNDER

December 15, 2010

SIAST's unionized employees are represented by the Professional Services bargaining unit (566 full-time equivalents – FTEs) or by the Academic bargaining unit (1,084 FTEs) of the Saskatchewan General Government Employees Union (SGEU). Their most recent collective agreements expired in June 2009.

In early November, after four days of conciliation, the two union bargaining committees ended conciliation after presenting final proposals that were turned down by SIAST. The proposals would have resulted in increased costs to SIAST of approximately 17% (Academic) and 15% (Professional Services) over a three-year term. SIAST's initial offer was 4.0% over three years.

After conciliation ended, both bargaining committees presented SIAST with strike notices. SIAST then issued a lockout notice. Implementation of a lockout would occur only after a careful assessment of the merits and impacts of the strategy.

SIAST proposed and the union rejected asking the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety to appoint a mediator. SIAST then agreed to the union's suggestion that the parties take part in voluntary mediation. SIAST has suggested that the parties engage one of five well-respected and experienced labour relations professionals as a mediator. The union accepted one of those names – Calgary-based Tom Hodges – on December 7.

SIAST is providing bargaining updates and information on www.campusupdate.ca. SIAST also records updates on its emergency message toll-free number – 1-866-878-8913 (Regina – 798-4500).

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 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAST served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAST operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.