



**SIAST**

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Editors:** See Backgrounder for additional details.

# **SIAST looks forward to mediation**

## *SGEU and SIAST reach agreement on mediator*

**December 8, 2010** – SIAST welcomes news that the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees Union (SGEU) has agreed to one of its suggestions for a mediator to help the two sides reach new collective agreements.

“This is a very positive development,” says Gary Earles, SIAST’s associate vice president, human resources. “All parties have already invested a significant amount of time and effort in the bargaining process, and we’re hopeful that, with the assistance of a mediator, this will result in settlements in the near future.”

The mediator agreed to by both parties is Tom Hodges. The Calgary-based mediator has served in executive and mediation roles in British Columbia and Ontario and with the federal government. He was general chairman of the United Transportation Union’s Central Region while employed by CN Rail in the 1970s and ‘80s.

The next steps include setting dates for mediation and discussing the possibility of both parties refrain from job action while planning and implementing mediation.

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Information about SIAST can be found at [www.goSIAST.com](http://www.goSIAST.com).

## ***CONTRACT TALKS BACKGROUNDER***

**December 8, 2010**

SIAS'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 SIAS. The proposals would have resulted in increased costs to SIAS of approximately 17% (Academic) and 15% (Professional Services) over a three-year term. SIAS's initial offer was 4.0% over three years.

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

SIAS proposed and the union rejected asking the Ministry of Labour and Workplace Safety to appoint a mediator. SIAS then agreed to the union's suggestion that the parties take part in voluntary mediation. SIAS 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 on December 7.

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

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