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NEWS RELEASE

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DTI, SIAST enhance access

Agreement extends program delivery partnership

January 27, 2006 – The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) and SIAST renewed a partnership agreement today that enhances Métis access to skills training and that supports joint planning between the two organizations.

Key provisions of the agreement include delivery of SIAST-accredited programs through DTI and representation from the Métis institute on SIAST's program council.

"Dumont Technical Institute exists to help build a brighter future for Métis people and communities," says Brett Vandale, DTI principal. "The Federation Agreement with SIAST provides DTI with access to accredited training programs that are provincial, and nationally recognized. This renewal agreement is another step forward, and it recognizes the maturing of our organization and the need for both organizations to work more collaboratively to ensure that Métis people are getting a quality education in a culturally relevant setting."

Programs are delivered through the agreement on both SIAST and DTI campuses and at outreach locations through the province. Programs offered during the 14-year partnership have ranged from Auto Body to Business to Practical Nursing.

"Enhancing access to programming through innovative partnerships such as this helps both our organizations respond effectively to employer and student needs," says Dr. Bob McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAST. "We're very pleased to renew our commitment, and to continue pursuing new opportunities to work together."

Dumont Technical Institute is the adult basic education and skills training arm of the Gabriel Dumont Institute. Its primary purpose is to educate and train Métis people within Saskatchewan. Programs are delivered through a community-based approach and include a strong cultural component. This approach allows Métis people to acquire

an education in their home community in a culturally relevant and sensitive environment, while gaining the education and skills necessary to be active and productive participants in the labour market.

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. Almost 12,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws more than 27,000 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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