



**Kawacatoose
First Nation**



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kawacatoose, SIAST celebrate agreement

SIAST to deliver Practical Nursing program in Quinton

June 6, 2006 – The Kawacatoose First Nation and SIAST have reached an agreement that will see SIAST's Practical Nursing program delivered to students from Kawacatoose and neighbouring bands.

Delivery of the program is scheduled to begin this fall with a class of 18 at the Kawacatoose First Nation Training Facility in Quinton, Saskatchewan. The clinical component of the program will take place at hospitals and long-term care facilities in such communities as Yorkton, Raymore and Wynyard, and at the Fort Qu'Appelle All Nations Healing Hospital. The program will be offered again starting in 2008.

"These types of close-to-home program arrangements support successful completion because they give our students a sense of ownership," says Kawacatoose Chief Dennis Dustyhorn.

"The agreement with Kawacatoose represents a great opportunity to reach people in their own communities," says Dr. Bob McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAST. "It's a perfect example of innovative education and partnerships in action."

The Kawacatoose First Nation and SIAST held a ceremony to commemorate the agreement. Guests included representatives of funding agencies for the initiative – Health Canada's First Nations Inuit Health Branch, the Saskatchewan Department of Advanced Education and Employment and the Saskatchewan Department of Health. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Third Vice Chief Delbert Wapass, Health and Social Development portfolio, who helped facilitate funding, was also present.

The Kawacatoose First Nation, located near Raymore, about an hour's drive north of Regina, is part of the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council. It has a population of 2,642, including 874 people living on-reserve. More than 80 Kawacatoose First Nation young people attend high school on-reserve.

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.

– 30 –

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