

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

SIAST expands mobile training

Additional mobile training labs make "fleet" of three

SASKATOON, September 10, 2007 – Two new mobile training labs are ready to hit the road, enabling SIAST and its training sector partners to extend their reach in providing more just-in-time trades training to students in the southern part of the province and to Aboriginal students. One of the new labs made a stop today in Saskatoon.

Similar to the first mobile training lab launched in 2006, each of the new labs includes a tractor-trailer unit with pop-out sides that transform it into a 1,100-square-foot training facility and a supply trailer that contains training aids, materials and tools, many of which were donated by manufacturers.

"Education and training are among the most important investments a government can make," Advanced Education and Employment Minister Warren McCall said. "The government's investment in these mobile training labs is an investment in Saskatchewan people and their communities."

"We've been experiencing tremendous success with the first mobile training lab," says Dr. Bob McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAST. "And we anticipate continued success with our ability to enhance access for learners, including those of Aboriginal ancestry, in some of our high-demand trades programs and in more geographic areas of the province."

"Through our partnership with the province, we will now have one dedicated mobile unit that will allow us to take trades training right to, or very close to, our First Nations," says Ray Ahenakew, president of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. "The mobile training lab is a state-of-the-art training facility that will serve to kick-start our new agenda to ramp up trades training for First Nations youth. It will bring access to apprenticeship training in welding, fabrication and other trades within sight of our youth. It is truly part of the answer for the future of our economy."

"The Gabriel Dumont Institute is extremely happy to see the implementation of the mobile training labs into the Saskatchewan training system," says Geordy McCaffrey, executive director of Gabriel Dumont Institute. "The labs will allow residents in remote communities access to top-notch skills training without leaving home. This initiative is a positive investment in developing Saskatchewan's human potential."

In addition to SIIT, training system partners in the expansion of the mobile training initiative include the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission and Saskatchewan's regional colleges.

Funding for the labs was provided by Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment in the amount of \$2.8 million. Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available for organizations interested in becoming part of the mobile training initiative.

Each of the mobile training labs can accommodate 12 students, and each training session will last seven to 20 weeks, depending on the program.

With the launch of the first mobile training lab in 2006, SIAST now has a fleet of three labs to deliver Industrial Mechanics, Welding, Machine Shop, Electrician, Plumbing and Steamfitter/Pipefitter programs.

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 11,000 students are registered in SIAST programs, which touch every sector of the economy; additionally, the organization draws more than 29,000 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-

A backgrounder is attached. For more information, contact:

Colleen Gallant
SIAST Marketing & Communications
Office: (306) 933-8342
Cellular: (306) 230-5874

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

MOBILE TRAINING LAB BACKGROUNDER

September 2007

Vital statistics

- Three mobile training labs
 - Pop-out sides expand each lab to 1,100 square feet
 - Powered by diesel generators with on-board fuel for up to 20 weeks
 - 7- to 20-week training sessions
 - 12 students per session
- Four supply units

Programming capabilities

Apprenticeship technical training

- Electrical
- Industrial Mechanics
- Machining
- Pipefitting/Steamfitting
- Plumbing
- Welding

Applied certificate programs

- Electrical
- Industrial Mechanics
- Plumbing/Pipefitting
- Welding

Training system partners

- Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI)
- Northern Apprenticeship Committee
- Northern Development Board
- Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment
- Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission
- Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT)
- Saskatchewan Learning
- Saskatchewan Regional Colleges
- SIAST

Training schedule

	<u>Program</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Training partners, with SIAST</u>
▪	Fall/winter 2007-08:		
	○ Welding	La Ronge	SIIT, Northlands College
	○ Plumbing	Whitewood	South East Regional College
	○ Plumbing /Pipefitting	Creighton	Northlands Regional College
▪	Spring/summer 2008:		
	○ Welding	N. Battleford	North West Regional College
	○ Welding	Nipawin	SIIT, Cumberland Regional College
	○ Electrician	Sandy Bay	Northlands Regional College
▪	Winter 2008-09:		
	○ Plumbing /Pipefitting	Pine House	GDI, Northlands Regional College
	○ Electrician	Sandy Bay	Northlands Regional College