



**SIAST**

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ATTENTION NEWS AND ASSIGNMENT EDITORS

***MEDIA ADVISORY***

## **PEI shares apprentice training strategy**

*SIAST hosts trade essentials info session for employers, educators*

**January 22, 2010** – In Prince Edward Island (PEI), the Apprenticeship section of the Department of Innovation and Advanced Learning has taken a different approach to trades training. Across the country, both educators and employers are taking notice.

Well-known as a national leader in both prior learning assessment and recognition (PLAR) and essential skills training, SIAST is hosting workshops in both Prince Albert and Regina so others can learn from the Trade Essentials Research team from PEI.

“We are pleased to host these workshops where we can learn more about the PEI experience and have an opportunity to examine the tools and systems they have developed,” says Grant MacTavish, coordinator, SIAST Recognition of Prior Learning. “Response has been overwhelming. With more than 120 registrants, the workshops were a sell-out.”

The PEI-based Trade Essentials Research project has led to increased enrolment in apprenticeship and student success through a number of strategies involving essential skills. The goal for the student is a seamless transition through the apprenticeship training process and successful certification. The goal for educators and employers is to ensure that education and training gaps are filled so people can take advantage of growing opportunities in the trades.

Workshop presenters will introduce the assessment tools designed for the workplace to help apprentices know the full scope of their trade, measure their skills against the requirements for their trade and identify their technical skills gaps. Participants include industry sector councils, construction associations, and NGOs involved in supporting career transition, especially to the trades and post-secondary institutions.

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 14,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 30,000 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.

Media are invited to attend:

**Regina**

Date: Monday, January 25, 2010

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Travelodge Hotel Regina, Regina, SK

**Prince Albert**

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2010

Time: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: SIAST Woodland Campus in Prince Albert, 1100 15<sup>th</sup> Street East

– 30 –

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