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INSTITUTE OF
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SIAST

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

SIIT, SIAST sign partnership agreement

Supports accessible, responsive technical education and skills training

November 19, 2007 – The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies and SIAST today signed an academic partnership agreement that will enhance their capacity to meet technical education and skills training needs. The agreement will guide the two organizations on planning and implementation of joint initiatives.

“Skilled training opportunities for our First Nation people and the ability to enhance access to high-demand trade areas is crucial,” says Ray Ahenakew, president, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. “The partnership agreement signed today continues our two respective institutions’ desire to be part of the answer for the future of the economy and in developing Saskatchewan’s human potential.”

“Today’s agreement formalizes and builds on the excellent relationship that exists between our two organizations,” says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAST. “It will guide us as we collaborate on current and future initiatives that support social and economic development, and that expand workforce participation.”

SIIT and SIAST, both credential-granting organizations, are presently involved in mobile training and trades and skills centre partnerships. Today’s agreement covers such topics as curriculum availability for those initiatives and future ventures. It also respects the jurisdiction of each party with respect to issuing credentials and transcripts. It does not preclude the involvement of other parties; in fact, several other organizations are key participants in the inner city and mobile initiatives.

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) is Canada’s largest First Nation technical training institute and is one of few post-secondary institutions in the country that is governed and operated by First Nations. Established in 1976, SIIT is an educational institution of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and is

recognized as a provincial post-secondary institution under *The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies Act* (2000). This legislation assists in the transferability of credits and programs to other post-secondary institutions and professional organizations. Since its inception, SIIT has graduated more than 7,500 students and operates through nine campuses across Saskatchewan.

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.

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