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SIAST to lead Ukraine training project

Project builds on SIAST strengths in developing responsive programs

April 27, 2005 – The Canadian International Development Agency today approved a project aimed at improving the adult skills training system in Ukraine. The agreement, worth almost \$5 million, will span four years and be implemented by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) and the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. SIAST is the lead implementing Canadian college on the project.

"SIAST has played an important role in Canada's international development efforts," says Finance Minister Ralph Goodale, who announced the project at a Ukraine Professional and Business Club luncheon in Saskatoon. "Today's announcement is one more example of how Saskatchewan expertise will make a difference in Ukraine," he added.

The project will address ways to decentralize decision-making to local and regional governments in Ukraine. It will also examine ways to develop training programs that are more relevant to local job markets.

"Developing and delivering relevant skills training is a key SIAST strength, and one that figures prominently in many of our international projects," says SIAST director of international services David Harvey. "On this particular project, the cultural and linguistic links between Saskatchewan and Ukraine will further enhance the partnership with our colleagues in Ukraine. We look forward to co-operating with the many people in Saskatchewan of Ukrainian heritage able to support this project."

SIAST was chosen to head the Ukraine project because of its experience working with training systems in other transitional countries in the region, such as the Slovak Republic, Romania and Hungary. SIAST's international services group is active in a number of other developing countries, including Vietnam, India and Malawi.

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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