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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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# **Future students “paint” the town green at SIAS Wascana Campus Eco-Fair**

*Campus community invited to take One-Tonne Challenge*

**March 1, 2006** – Fifty youngsters from SIAS Wascana Campus daycare joined SIAS students, teachers and staff at the inaugural Eco-Fair on campus today.

A central hallway at SIAS Wascana Campus hosted earth-friendly activities, bringing together more than a dozen agencies and businesses committed to environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability in Regina and surrounding community. Children from the daycare – dressed in green for the day – joined the fun by colouring paper “footprints” that marked the path for SIAS Wascana students and staff to follow to the one-day Eco-Fair. The footprints represent the “ecological footprint” that each of us makes on the earth through our consumption habits.

The Eco-Fair had two goals: to raise awareness of environmental issues such as climate change, energy alternatives and energy-efficient technologies, and to provide exposure to agencies that will help students and staff make sustainable decisions in the future.

“Today’s fair is part of a series of events designed to engage the campus community in the issue of sustainable development,” says co-organizer Elaine McNeil. “We all have a

vested interest in how wisely we use, re-use and reduce our dependency on certain natural resources. The Eco-Fair will help raise awareness about ways to do that.”

Participants were issued passports for the Eco-Fair that included skill-testing questions from 15 different trade booths. After the questions were answered and the passports stamped, they were entered in a draw for prizes such as solar flashlights, cedar compost bins, free recycling pick-up and low-energy light bulbs. As well, staff and students were encouraged to sign up for the federal government’s One-Tonne Challenge, pledging to reduce their energy consumption for two weeks beginning March 6. There were tips for reducing harmful greenhouse gasses in everyday activities.

“Students can install energy efficient light bulbs or take shorter showers and save themselves quite a lot of money, too,” says McNeil.

The Eco-Fair is an initiative of the Wascana Campus Green Group, which was established last year to promote sustainable practices on campus and to work with similar agencies in Regina.

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.

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