

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **SIAST adds Victim Services program**

*Ministry of Justice and SIAST collaborate on new credentialed program*

**June 23, 2011** – SIAST was joined by the provincial government’s Ministry of Justice for the launch of its new Victim Services applied certificate program in Regina this afternoon.

“We are very pleased to extend our partnership with SIAST,” Minister of Justice and Attorney General Don Morgan said. “The applied certificate program will provide students with more in-depth knowledge and training. The end result will be even better service for victims of crime in our province.”

The program builds on a series of courses currently offered by SIAST in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice Victims Service branch. In 2006, victim services coordinators and Aboriginal resource officers from across the province met with SIAST to identify training needs, and a draft curriculum was established. Funding for the courses was covered by the ministry. Since then, 76 people from across the province have completed the initial 12 days of training.

“Redeveloping victim services training as a credentialed program provides important indicators of program rigor for both students and employers,” says David Walls, SIAST’s senior vice-president, academic. “Support from the Ministry of Justice and from people in the field has helped SIAST ensure that grads will be prepared for the tough challenges they will face on the job.”

The enhanced Victim Services program will be offered beginning January 2012. The graduates of the initial 12-day training will be able to apply for entry credit through prior learning and recognition (PLAR) at SIAST.

The Government of Saskatchewan funds 18 police-based victim services programs, available to almost 90 per cent of the provincial population, as well as specialized

domestic violence victim services programs in three cities. Graduates of the program may work as victim services coordinators, assistant coordinators, domestic violence victim caseworkers or Aboriginal resource officers. They will provide advocacy, information, assistance and referrals to victims of crime or traumatic events.

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 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 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.

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