



SIAS

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Putting knowledge to work.

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

SIAS puts wheels under training

\$1.6-million mobile lab expands capacity, access to trades programs

September 6, 2006 – Have training programs, will travel. The SIAS Mobile Training Lab, unveiled today in Prince Albert, will expand provincial training capacity and increase access to trades training by taking shop facilities and instructors to remote areas of Saskatchewan. The lab includes a tractor trailer unit with pop-out sides that transform it into a 1,100-square-foot training facility. It can accommodate a range of programs, including welding, industrial mechanics and electrical.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to providing access to education and skills training to help our young people build careers in Saskatchewan," Minister of Advanced Education and Employment Pat Atkinson says.

"The SIAS Mobile Training Lab supports economic growth in Saskatchewan by providing just-in-time training when and where it's needed," says Dr. Bob McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAS. "It's an excellent example of public and private sector collaboration – a truly 'industry-driven' initiative."

Major financial backers of the \$1.6-million initiative include the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, Cameco, AREVA, SaskTel and the Northern Apprenticeship Committee (NAC). The NAC secured funding from the federal-provincial Northern Development Agreement, a pool of money earmarked by the governments to advance the northern economy. In addition to the tractor-trailer training unit, the SIAS Mobile Training Lab includes two supply trailers that contain training aids, materials and tools, many of which were donated by manufacturers.

"This is a unique partnership opportunity that will deliver onsite apprenticeship training to Cameco's growing workforce," says Jerry Grandey, Cameco president and CEO. "This innovative initiative will help address the increasing need for skilled tradespeople in Saskatchewan."

"AREVA Resources Canada Inc. is very pleased to participate in a training program that is capable of being delivered in the north for northerners. We are committed to maximizing northern participation in our industry, and SIAST's Mobile Training Lab increases accessibility for residents of northern communities to attend training programs. This is especially important in today's tight labour market," says Brian Reilly, AREVA Resources Canada's vice-president human resources and industrial relations.

"This vision, initiated by SIAST and supported by the Northern Apprenticeship Committee, will provide a significant shot-in-the-arm in terms of the availability of training opportunities for northern apprentices, which in turn will enhance the skill level of the northern work force tremendously," says Steve Innes, committee chair.

Northlands College will play a key role in delivery of training through the mobile training lab. Northlands is the primary training contact for industry in northern Saskatchewan. The mobile lab will increase college capacity to respond to industry's training needs in a number of the apprenticeship trades as well as increase access for northerners to apprenticeship training and trades-related employment. The SIAST Mobile Training Lab's inaugural classes – Electrician and Industrial Mechanics programs – will begin in October at Cigar Lake, where Cameco is building a new uranium mining operation.

Powered by diesel generators, the shop will carry sufficient fuel to operate high amp equipment and lighting and heating systems for an estimated 20 weeks. Each training session will last seven to 20 weeks, depending on the program delivered, and the lab can accommodate 12 students at a time.

During September, the lab will set up for two days at SIAST campuses in Regina, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon.

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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For more information, contact:

Colleen Gallant
SIAST
306-230-5874

Additional information about SIAST can be found at www.goSIAST.com.



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MOBILE TRAINING LAB BACKGROUNDER

September 2006

Programming

Apprenticeship technical training

- Electrical
- Industrial Mechanics
- Machining
- Pipefitting/Steamfitting
- Plumbing
- Welding

Pre-trades (pre-apprentice) applied certificates

- Electrical
- Industrial Mechanics
- Plumbing/Pipefitting
- Welding

Sponsors

- Northern Apprenticeship Committee
- Northern Development Board
- Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission
- AREVA
- Cameco
- SaskTel
- Peel Truck & Trailer Equipment
- Lincoln
- Praxair
- Snap-On Tools

Scheduling

An advisory body, the MTL Scheduling Council, will establish an annual training plan for the lab, considering proposals from industry, regional colleges, communities, school divisions and Aboriginal organizations. Members of the council include representatives of:

- SIAST
- Northern Apprenticeship Committee
- Northlands College
- Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission
- Saskatchewan Learning
- Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment
- Saskatchewan Industry and Resources

Vital stats

- 1,100 square feet shop space
- 2 supply trailers
- Powered by diesel generators with on-board fuel for up to 20 weeks
- 7- to 20-week training sessions
- 12 students per session