



SIAS

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Putting knowledge to work.

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

SIAS's mobile lab visits Saskatoon

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

SASKATOON, September 21, 2006 – Training to go. SIAS's new Mobile Training Lab, which will provide just-in-time trades training – when and where it's needed, is visiting Saskatoon this week. Business, industry and the public are invited to visit the facility tomorrow, September 22, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

The \$1.6 million mobile training initiative 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.

"This type of initiative has tremendous potential to power economic growth across Saskatchewan," says Dr. Bob McCulloch, president and CEO of SIAS. "It's a versatile and efficient training delivery method for industry, and it enables learners in remote communities to stay close to home."

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. 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.

Major financial backers of the SIAS Mobile Training Lab 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.

The SIAST Mobile Training Lab's inaugural classes will begin in October at Cigar Lake, where Cameco is building a new uranium mining operation. Electrician and Industrial Mechanics programs will be provided.

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
Marketing and Communications Coordinator
306-230-5874

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

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MOBILE TRAINING LAB BACKGROUND

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