



**SIAS**

SASKATCHEWAN INSTITUTE OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Editors:** See Backgrounder for additional details.

# **SIAS to SGEU: Let our employees vote**

*SIAS calls on SGEU to avoid unnecessary impact on students, employees*

**January 19, 2011** –SIAS is calling on the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU) to let SIAS union members vote on SIAS's final wage and benefits offer.

"Our students and our employees have been learning and working under a cloud of uncertainty long enough," says Dr. Robert G. McCulloch, SIAS president and CEO. "It's time to settle."

After more than a year of collective bargaining, conciliation and, most recently, mediation, SIAS presented a final offer to the union today. The union did not accept the offer and terminated mediation tonight.

SIAS believes the time has come for employees to have a say.

"We tabled a fair and reasonable offer of 5.5% over three years," Dr. McCulloch says. "Our offer is competitive and consistent with settlements agreed by the SGEU representing 10,000-plus public service employees, and with the agreement reached with the regional college employees. We hope the union will provide our employees with the opportunity to vote on our package."

SGEU served SIAS with a strike notice November 10, but SIAS does not know if or when the union will initiate job action. Students can check [www.campusupdate.ca](http://www.campusupdate.ca) or phone 1-866-878-8913 (Regina – 798-4500) for updates.

Should the union chose to further prolong the collective bargaining process and send its members onto picket lines, SIAS will keep campuses open to the extent possible and will offer as many services as possible, Dr. McCulloch said.

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Information about SIAS can be found at [www.goSIAS.com](http://www.goSIAS.com).



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## ***CONTRACT TALKS BACKGROUNDER***

**January 19, 2011**

SIAS's unionized employees are represented by the Professional Services bargaining unit (566 full-time equivalents – FTEs) or by the Academic bargaining unit (1,084 FTEs) of the Saskatchewan General Government Employees' Union (SGEU). Their most recent collective agreements expired in June 2009.

In early November, after four days of conciliation, the two union bargaining committees ended conciliation after presenting final proposals that were turned down by SIAS. The proposals would have resulted in increased costs to SIAS of approximately 17% (Academic) and 15% (Professional Services) over a three-year term.

After conciliation ended, both bargaining committees presented SIAS with strike notices. SIAS then issued a lockout notice. Implementation of a lockout would occur only after a careful assessment of the merits and impacts of the strategy.

SIAS proposed and the union rejected asking the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety to appoint a mediator. SIAS then agreed to the union's suggestion that the parties take part in voluntary mediation. SIAS suggested that the parties engage one of five well-respected and experienced labour relations professionals as a mediator. The union accepted one of those names – Calgary-based Tom Hodges – on December 7. Mediation then took place over four days in January.

SIAS is providing bargaining updates and information on [www.campusupdate.ca](http://www.campusupdate.ca). SIAS also records updates on its emergency message toll-free number – 1-866-878-8913 (Regina – 798-4500).

SIAS 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 SIAS programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAS served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAS operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.