



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Groundbreaking partnership builds capacity with public works training program for First Nations' communities

SASKATOON – First Nations Capital and Infrastructure Agency of Saskatchewan ([FNCIAS](#)) and Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies ([SIIT](#)) are proud to announce a partnership designed to facilitate capacity building alongside member First Nations in the form of programming and training of their members as public works managers. The program is the first of its kind in the province.

As part of SIIT's commitment to continuous improvement to meet the training needs of Saskatchewan's Indigenous communities, SIIT identified the cultivation of capacity in the area of Public Works by designing a new curriculum and program to meet this demand.

FNCIAS has committed funds to support the adaptation of the public works to address needs at the community level and explore opportunities for ongoing training and development for FNCIAS staff, member First Nations and Tribal Councils.

“SIIT is a well-established FSIN educational institution with a history of delivering strong programming that is innovative and demand-driven to workforce development in First Nation communities,” said Drew Pearson, Interim FNCIAS CEO and president. The strategic partnership between our two institutions will support and develop candidates, and the Public Works Manager program aligns with our organizational values of collaboration and innovation while ensuring we are creating community prosperity.”

[FNCIAS](#) was created to address the critical issues surrounding community housing and infrastructure programs through collaboration with First Nations, Tribal Councils, and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and to facilitate the transfer of control, delivery and management of First Nations housing, capital and infrastructure funding and services in Saskatchewan.

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### **First Nations Capital & Infrastructure Agency of Saskatchewan (FNCIAS)**

First Nations Capital and Infrastructure Agency of Saskatchewan was established in 2020, it incorporated to become a stand-alone non-profit member corporation. FNCIAS is a First Nations organization modelled on the results of its engagements with First Nations communities, leadership, and Tribal Councils in Saskatchewan.

### **Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT)**

SIIT was established in 1976 by Saskatchewan First Nations leaders representing all Treaty areas. Today, SIIT remains a First Nation-governed educational institution, one of only four credit-granting post-secondary institutions in the province and the only accredited Indigenous institution. SIIT provides adult learners with academic, vocational, and technical training as well as services and supports for employment and career growth. Indigenous learners are at the core of SIIT, representing over 95 per cent of the student body.