



MEDIA RELEASE

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SIIT Marks 50 Years of Empowering Learners and Strengthening Communities

SASKATOON, SK – The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) is marking its 50th anniversary in 2026, celebrating five decades of creating opportunities through education, training, and community partnerships across Saskatchewan.

Founded in 1976 by the Chiefs of Saskatchewan, SIIT has grown into Canada's largest Indigenous post-secondary institution. For 50 years, SIIT has worked alongside First Nations communities to provide accessible, culturally relevant, and industry-responsive education that supports learner success, workforce development, and community growth.

Today, SIIT delivers programs in Health & Community Studies, Business & Technology, Trades & Industrial and Pre-employment & Continuing Education through campuses, training sites, mobile learning units, and community-based programming. Working alongside all 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan, SIIT continues to respond to the needs of learners, communities, and employers across the province.

"As we mark SIIT's 50th anniversary, we are reminded of the knowledge keepers in our communities and the importance of honouring the vision of our founders, the Chiefs of Saskatchewan," explains Chief Darcy Bear, Chief – Whitecap Dakota First Nation and SIIT Board of Governors Chair. "Fifty years later, SIIT is proud to have served over 65,000 alumni, who lead in every sector in this province. The growth that SIIT has experienced and continues to experience speaks to the strength of our peoples and our institutions."

"The leadership of our communities is foundational", reiterates Riel Bellegarde, President and CEO, SIIT. We are also thankful to work alongside some very dedicated corporate partners and government leaders in Canada. With their help, we continue to look ahead, as we lead in Indigenous learner success." Bellegarde continued, "we are looking forward, preparing for the next generation of Indigenous learners prioritizing innovation, next generation technology, community-based research and entrepreneurship. In all our program areas, SIIT is preparing our students not just for today's jobs but for tomorrow's industries, building the foundational skills for the future of work."

Throughout 2026, SIIT is commemorating this milestone by honouring its history, celebrating its impact today, and investing in future generations.

50th Anniversary Highlights

Honouring the Past

- Documenting and sharing SIIT's journey through a Research and Storytelling Project that highlights the people, milestones, and experiences that have shaped the institution over the past five decades.
- Recognizing alumni at SIIT's annual Alumni Awards, whose achievements and contributions continue to strengthen communities, industries, and professions across Saskatchewan

Celebrating the Present

- Launching SIIT's 50th Anniversary Brand Kit, designed by SIIT employee and Indigenous artist Alexis Blackbird, to create a recognizable identity for celebrations across the province.

- Bringing together students, staff, alumni, partners, and communities through anniversary celebrations held at SIIT locations across Saskatchewan.
- Hosting the SIIT 50th Anniversary Gala on October 22, 2026, bringing together alumni, partners, and community leaders to celebrate SIIT's legacy and future impact.

Building the Future

- Providing fifty \$500 entrance awards to help remove barriers and create pathways to education.
- Supporting community events and initiatives that align with SIIT's values and commitment to community development.
- Expanding opportunities for Indigenous entrepreneurs across Saskatchewan through SIIT's pawâcîkêwikamik Innovation Collective, supporting Indigenous innovation and entrepreneurship across the province.

As SIIT marks this milestone anniversary, the institution recognizes and appreciates the students, alumni, Elders, staff, partners, and communities who have shaped its journey and contributed to its success. Guided by First Nations leadership and community priorities, SIIT remains committed to empowering learners, strengthening communities, and creating lasting impact for generations to come.

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Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT)

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies was established in 1976 by Saskatchewan First Nations Chiefs representing all Treaty areas. Today, SIIT remains a First Nations-governed educational institution – and one of only four credit-granting post-secondary institutions in the province. SIIT provides adult learners with academic, vocational, and technical training, as well as services and supports for employment and career growth.

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