



News Release

Attention News Directors/Assignment Editors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SaskEnergy sponsorship buys state-of-the-art technology for Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo Affinity Learning Centre

Saskatoon, SK – December 11, 2009 – SaskEnergy has donated \$75,000 over three years to support educational programming at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo's recently constructed Affinity Learning Centre.

The Zoo used the 2009 installment of \$25,000 to purchase three interactive SMART Boards and other furnishings for classrooms in its new educational facility.

The SMART Board interactive teaching system is a touch screen whiteboard that can be used as a projector, computer and whiteboard combination. Users can touch the Board to highlight key points, access applications and Web sites, and write notes in electronic ink.

This equipment was recently installed in preparation for the Zoo's new educational programming, which will officially launch in January, 2010 and will be available to classes visiting from throughout the province.

"SaskEnergy makes a point of supporting educational programs, particularly those that teach students about local wildlife and the importance of conserving habitat," said Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy. "The Saskatoon Zoo is a tremendous resource that offers students an experience they can't get from reading a text book. SaskEnergy's sponsorship allows for the purchase of multi-media technology to further enhance the learning experience when students visit the zoo."

Interpreters with the Saskatoon Zoo Society have developed a series of interactive educational programs using the multi-media technology. On Friday morning they gave a pilot presentation to a group of students from L'Ecole Lakeview Public School, along with Minister Cheveldayoff.

"When the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation committed to help fund the new Education Centre we wanted the facility to have the most up to date learning and interactive equipment available. With SaskEnergy's help we have achieved this priority," said Keith Tallon, President of the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation.

Future allotments from SaskEnergy will be used to install other equipment, including remote cameras in the Flight Rehabilitation Conservation Centre, which is scheduled for construction in 2010.

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Company Information:

The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo is a National Historic Site owned and operated by the City of Saskatoon.

The **Saskatoon Zoo Foundation** is an organization of volunteers dedicated to raising funds for capital improvements at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo.

The long term goal is to provide diversified recreational and educational programming to citizens of Saskatchewan via a zoological, horticultural, and Heritage Park. The Saskatoon Zoo and Forestry Farm Park is a living museum dedicated to education and conservation of indigenous plants and animals, with the opportunity to exhibit exotic animals from similar climates. The Saskatoon Zoo is Saskatchewan's only Zoo and is accredited by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Zoo and Forestry Farm Park site also has historical significance as it is designated a National Historic Site. Over 200,000 people visit the zoo and Park on an annual basis.

The **Saskatoon Zoo Society** is a group of independent volunteers who organized in 1974 to ensure that the Zoo's animal residents received proper care and attention. The non-profit group also raises funds for facility developments and upgrades, as well as educational programming based on wildlife housed at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo.

Each year, the dedicated volunteers of the Saskatoon Zoo Society offer more than 400 educational programs and events aimed at fostering respect for nature.

The organization is funded through grants and donations, as well as cost recovery from educational programs, its membership program, its Adopt-a-Critter program and the Paws Inn Concession and Gift shop.

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