



## *Media Release*

**For Immediate Release**

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### **SaskEnergy and Industry Establish Innovative Training Facility in Saskatoon**

Saskatoon is home to a new provincial natural gas trades training centre, designed to provide technical training to both SaskEnergy and private sector industry employees. The SaskEnergy Technical Training Centre was developed in partnership with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan (MCAS) which provided heating & mechanical equipment, mechanical contracting services as well as consultation during development of the facility.

The centre includes a technical training lab, classrooms, and the unique feature of all mechanical equipment used for heating, ventilation and cooling exposed, providing students with fully-functioning learning models. The partnership is one of the first of its kind in Canada.

“Investing in human capital and skill development are vital to the continued growth of Saskatchewan’s economy. This state-of-the-art training facility represents the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit that happens when our Crowns and the private sector come together,” said Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy.

For the past decade, SaskEnergy and the MCAS have worked together, developing initiatives like the SaskEnergy Network to better serve natural gas customers in Saskatchewan. Together they deliver some of the most successful energy efficiency programs in Canada.

"A laboratory with innovative technical equipment suitable to all users will help to meet the demographic training challenges our industry faces in Saskatchewan. It opens the door to change and innovation, which are critical to the future success of the Mechanical Contracting industry," said Allan Awrey, President of the MCAS.

With the help of the MCAS, SaskEnergy has created a cost-effective Training Centre by investing \$1.4 million to redevelop one of SaskEnergy’s current buildings, located at 1301 Quebec Avenue, Saskatoon. As part of the redesign, new insulation, windows and training equipment was installed, along with a new condensing boiler, high efficient furnaces and air conditioning units.

Video conferencing capabilities will allow MCAS and SaskEnergy to benefit from speakers and programs held in other parts of Canada. The SaskEnergy Technical Training Centre increases the Corporation’s training capacity allowing for additional employees from SaskEnergy and industry to attend compared with previous training facilities.

The new centre allows both organizations to continue raising the bar on programming as we deliver quality technical training in a state-of-the-art facility, giving students the tools they need to do their jobs efficiently and safely.

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