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News Release

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MINISTER DUSTIN DUNCAN JOINS STUDENTS AND SASKATCHEWAN ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY AT ENERGY CONSERVATION EVENT

SASKATOON, SK – Today, the Saskatchewan Environmental Society (SES) is greener than ever, thanks to \$105,000 in support from SaskEnergy and SaskPower. The funds will ensure that Destination Conservation Saskatchewan, a SES environmental education program, continues to reach Saskatchewan schools. Currently some 20,000 students, 1,100 teachers, at over 50 schools are involved.

The Honourable Dustin Duncan, Minister of Environment and Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy, made the announcement at Saskatoon's Montgomery School, where he also took part in a Grade 7 energy conservation lesson.

"It will take nothing short of doing things differently to create change," said Duncan. "Seeing young people engaged in real activities that actually reduce energy consumption and conserve resources is proof that meaningful change is possible. These students are teaching us all the power of individual responsibility in solving community challenges."

"Destination Conservation is a practical, student-driven, activity-based program that brings environmental education alive in our schools," says Angie Bugg, Energy Conservation Coordinator for SES. "Staff and student leaders conduct energy, water and waste audits and they run campaigns to get everyone in their school to change behaviour at home and in the classroom."

Destination Conservation facilitators engage schools in a series of activities for 3 consecutive years focused on saving energy, conserving water, and reducing waste. Schools receive teaching resources (tied to the Saskatchewan curriculum) for all age groups, instructions and support for conducting audits in schools and homes, and, they receive outlines and resources for students to run campaigns to change behaviour.

SaskEnergy and SaskPower have been supporters of this program since 2002, allowing SES to work with approximately 200 schools across the Province to date. Bugg acknowledges "this new sponsorship commitment provides ongoing stability to the program and ensures another three years of teachers and students making a difference. The combination of financial support, environmental education expertise, the guidance of teachers and the creative energy of students is a fabulous way to make conservation projects come to life."

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