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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Maurice Vellacott, MP
Saskatoon-Wanuskewin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Federal and Provincial Governments Work With Aviation Sector
to Create New Training Program**

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan — Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) will build a new training facility and offer an Aircraft Maintenance Engineering (AME) training program in Saskatoon thanks to investments from the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Airport Authority and private industry.

A joint funding announcement was made today in Saskatoon by Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon – Wanuskewin on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, and the Honourable Rob Norris, Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Today's announcement includes Government of Canada funding of \$1.6 million dollars through Western Economic Diversification Canada under the Western Diversification Program for construction of the facility, combined with donated aircraft worth \$200,000 from the Government of Saskatchewan.

"Today's announcement is another example of our Government's commitment to creating jobs and opportunity for Saskatchewan students," said Mr. Vellacott. "The Aircraft Maintenance Engineering Program will be an important part of our community, providing students with important skills training to help them succeed and prosper right here in Saskatchewan."

"Saskatchewan's economic growth continues to lead the country and the provincial government is pleased to be part of this exciting new initiative that will provide more training opportunities, allowing our students to develop the skills they need to excel in the workforce," Norris said.

SIIT's new training program is supported by the Saskatoon Airport Authority and Saskatchewan Advanced Education, Employment and Labour. The Saskatoon Airport Authority has agreed to a free land lease on the site of the training facility, valued

annually at \$100,000. Saskatchewan Advanced Education, Employment and Labour has agreed to provide operating funding of \$350,000.

“The role of an Airport Authority is more than serving to enhance air service,” said SAA Chairperson Nancy Hopkins. “Rather, the responsibilities include serving as an economic facilitator of our community. We are pleased to support this project as it is a significant contributor to the development and training of a workforce that will support numerous aviation trades in Saskatchewan.”

On June 25, 2008, leading global aerospace and defence companies Lockheed Martin, The Boeing Company and Rockwell Collins announced they had pooled their resources for the first time to support the development of aviation trades training, under Canada’s Industrial and Regional Benefits (IRB) Policy. Under the IRB, the private companies have committed \$2.75 million in funding and donated aircraft.

With the combination of Government of Canada funding for construction of the new training facility, the Government of Saskatchewan’s support in operating funding and donated aircraft, the Saskatoon Airport Authority’s provision of land, and the private companies’ support in funds and training aircraft, SIIT is now able to build the new training facility and plans to offer the new program starting in August 2010.

“We are very excited about this opportunity and very pleased that the Government of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan have taken a financial supporting role in this endeavour,” said Randell Morris, President of SIIT. “The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies has been working on this project for a while now and it’s great to see it take the next steps towards delivery.”

During the construction phase, this project will create approximately 50 jobs. The AME training program will employ two new instructors at SIIT and 30 training positions will be offered annually.

Demand is high for graduates of this type of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering program and is projected to increase in the future. This project will not only foster economic growth in the aviation industry in Western Canada, but could also attract additional Industrial and Regional Benefits to Saskatchewan and the West.

Western Economic Diversification Canada works with the provinces, industry associations and communities to promote the development and diversification of the western economy, coordinates federal economic activities in the West and represents the interests of western Canadians in national decision making.

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