



NORTHLANDS
COLLEGE

Media Release

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Air Ronge, SK — Northlands College Receives Major Funding from the International Minerals Innovation Institute for Development of the Northlands College Mine School

Northlands College has received a major block of funding that will contribute to the development of its Mine School. At a ceremony today, Engin Ozberk, Executive Director of the International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII) announced \$1.841 M in funding over three years that will be provided to the college.

“IMII is an industry–government–education and research institutions partnership, providing leadership to inform, facilitate, coordinate, and financially support industry-driven skills and research capacity that will enhance the growth and global competitiveness of Saskatchewan’s minerals industry through collaboration,” said Engin Özberk, Executive Director & Senior Technical Advisor at IMII. *“What we are celebrating today is one of the early accomplishments of this collaborative effort.”*

“We appreciate the support and vision of the IMII Board,” said Toby Greschner, President and CEO of Northlands College. *“This funding will allow us to develop and deliver world class training programs to meet the labour demands of the mining industry in this province.”*

“The Government of Saskatchewan, through Innovation Saskatchewan is a proud supporter of the IMII, and is pleased to see this investment being made to Northlands College to fund a new Mine School,” said Minister Responsible for Innovation Jeremy Harrison. *“Innovation Saskatchewan works collaboratively with the IMII to provide funding for programs such as the Mine School, which will grow the number of skilled workers in this key sector of our economy, while engaging our Northern Saskatchewan communities in training and employment opportunities.”*

IMII is a non-profit organization jointly funded by industry and government which is committed to developing and implementing innovative education, training, research and development partnerships for supporting a world-class minerals industry. IMII has strategic goals in sustainable education and research development which are met by industry led collaboration.

The financial contribution will enable Northlands to develop key components of the mine school. Programs will be expanded and enhanced by new developments and through transfer of credit arrangements with other Canadian Post-Secondary Institutions. Training relevance to industry requirements will be ensured through increased interaction between the mine school and northern mining and exploration companies as well as the contractors that serve the industry. *Learning resources relevant to Northern Saskatchewan geology, ground conditions and most importantly human resources will be developed to engage and enhance the Northern Workforce skills and availability.* The mine school will connect to industry relevant research projects with the goal of increasing the potential for economic and social benefit to the businesses, communities, and residents of Northern Saskatchewan.

The Northlands College Mine School will invest in new equipment and expanded laboratory facilities to support its training programs. The Air Ronge campus will also be connected to high bandwidth fibre optic networks, SRnet and CANARIE enabling real time high quality connections to research and educational institutions world-wide. Finally, a part of the IMII contribution will be put toward development of a new facility which will eventually replace the aging structures at the Air Ronge Campus. *These developments will enable the mine school to offer the youth of local communities world class training with labour force attachment right in northern Saskatchewan.*

The IMII funding, combined with the major Western Economic Diversification funding for mine equipment simulators and new facility development announced last summer by Prime Minister Harper, will enable the Northlands College Mine School to provide state of the art mine training for the residents of northern Saskatchewan. The major focus will be on supporting the growth of the industry and northern jobs by focussing on developing the technological and scientific skills of the northern workforce.

For more information, contact:

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