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Business Excellence



The Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) is very proud of the community it serves. SREDA's three main goals are to retain and expand local business in targeted sectors, to attract new investment in focus areas, and to ensure the Saskatoon region is the place to live, work, invest and prosper. We are "Celebrating Growth" through past successes and the new opportunities that now lay ahead.

## International Minerals Innovation Institute brings together industry, institutions and government

Saskatoon-based International Minerals Innovation Institute exists to bring together government, industry and education. Led by its industry members, and including institutions such as the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina, SIAST and Northlands, among many others. Or, as Executive Director Rodney Orr puts it, "we work with our industry members to identify their common needs for education, training, and research and then marry the right projects with the right organizations. We serve essentially in a project manager capacity interfacing between our members and the education and training institutions, the R&D researchers and other collaborators."

With a distinct focus in the areas of Education and Training (E&T) programs and Research and Development (R&D) projects for Saskatchewan's mineral resource sector, the IMII is a not for profit company that was set up in January 2012. That year and most of this year have been devoted to getting structures and organization in place and meeting with industry to determine their priorities, but the IMII is already fostering Education and Training by helping to fund the development of a Bachelor of Mineral Engineering degree by the University of Saskatchewan. Orr estimates that by April and May of this year, they expect to have many more priorities clearly defined for both the E&T and R&D areas.

Given their importance in Saskatchewan's minerals sector, much of IMII's efforts have been in the areas of potash and uranium mining, but Orr maintains that the opportunities for IMII's involvement will come from "across the board" as the minerals industry and their partners expand their activities and their needs. He

is also quick to point out that IMII "is not here to take place of what is already being accomplished in the areas of Research and Development or in Education and Training. We don't want to duplicate anything or undertake what any one company would normally be doing, rather we want to enhance the industry as a whole."

One of IMII's mandates is to find common ground amongst its member companies, which already include PotashCorp, Mosaic, Cameco, K+S Potash, BHP Billiton, Agrium, and North Rim Exploration and to help work towards solutions that will meet the broader needs. Right now, Orr says, the number one issue is the shortage of skilled workers in the province. IMII, along with its partners, is establishing ways to "best train and teach people to work in the mining industry. That is something that everyone is focusing on right now," and something which the new Mining Engineering degree program at the University of Saskatchewan will help to address.

Orr goes on to explain that their members are "very much engaged, and contributing money and manpower" to help find "world class solutions" to industry-wide problems, and says that Saskatoon is the perfect place for these partnerships to happen. Strong technological organizations such as the Saskatchewan Research Council and Canadian Light Source – both of whom are IMII members – and a number of world-class mining companies already in the city and the province means that many companies are basing their Canadian operations in Saskatchewan. Orr further estimates that every one direct mining industry job in the city leads to two more support jobs.



As so much of what IMII does and plans to do is to connect people and projects, the networking options provided by SREDA are invaluable, and play a part in IMII's goal of being a "multiplier" of answers and solutions for today's mining industry.



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International Minerals Innovation Institute

The International Minerals Innovation Institute is a Public-Private-Post-secondary Partnership and leader to inform, facilitate, coordinate, and financially support industry-driven research and skills development that will enable the growth and global competitiveness of Saskatchewan's minerals industry.

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Supporting the attraction and retention of educated and skilled people for Saskatchewan's mineral industry by:

Facilitating research and development and providing leadership and capacity building in the development of programs, technical certificate and undergraduate and post-graduate programs.