



**First Nations and  
Métis Relations**

## **Agreement sets stage for enhancing job opportunities for First Nations and Métis People**

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, February 25, 2005 . . . . .

Saskatoon Catholic Schools and its unions representing teachers, service and support staff signed an Aboriginal Employment Development Program (AEDP) partnership agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan today to enhance job opportunities for First Nations and Métis people.

“All AEDP partners are working collaboratively in partnership with the Saskatchewan Government to ensure barriers are being eliminated to promote full participation of First Nations and Métis people in the economic life of Saskatchewan,” First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Maynard Sonntag said. “We all share a vision here today, a vision where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and realize their dreams right here at home.”

“Signing this agreement is another important step we are taking to provide a positive future for First Nations and Métis people,” said Tom Fortosky, Deputy Board Chair for Saskatoon Catholic Schools. “We believe this will enhance opportunities for employment as well as prepare First Nations and Métis students for the workforce.”

“Saskatoon Catholic teachers are very pleased to be part of this signing. The philosophy of inclusion and working together for the educational and spiritual needs of all children is at the forefront of our mission. We are looking forward to the development of the programming and linkages that will benefit all of the stakeholders in this agreement,” said Stewart Forrester, Coordinator for the Catholic Section of the Saskatoon Teachers’ Association.

Saskatoon Catholic Schools, the largest Catholic school division in Saskatchewan, has more than 15,000 students in five high schools, 34 elementary schools and two associate schools. The division employs approximately 1,600 teaching, service and support staff. The purpose of Saskatoon Catholic Schools is to assist parents and the local church community in the formation of students in heart, mind, body and spirit.

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Through the AEDP, the Saskatchewan Government strives to build a representative workforce in Saskatchewan where First Nations and Métis people compete for jobs based on their skills and qualifications, and where they are represented at all occupational levels in proportion to their population numbers in the province.

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