



March 20, 2024

Chief Darcy Bear, Chair
Board of Governors
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
Suite 100 – 103A Packham Avenue
SASKATOON SK S7N 4K4

Dear Chief Darcy Bear:

Saskatchewan's 2024-25 Budget provides record investments in our province's present and future, with a focus on education, health care, and the well-being of our communities. Our rapidly growing economy is attracting more people and creating more jobs, and our strong and innovative post-secondary sector is essential in supporting that growth. *Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: The Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy*, announced earlier this month, underscores our commitment to supporting a thriving, talented workforce.

This budget year marks the conclusion of the four-year multi-year funding agreement. Our government's multi-year funding commitment and your dedicated planning and improvement efforts have ensured that Saskatchewan's post-secondary sector remains financially sustainable and aligned with the priorities of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for the Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030*.

As we begin the collective work to establish a new agreement, we appreciate the discussions this past year regarding the importance of stable, predictable funding, as well as the growing pressure on budgets and financial sustainability efforts. We heard your concerns and are very pleased to provide a 2.2 per cent one-time increase to your 2024-25 operating grant. This positive adjustment to your funding will be reflected in an amendment to the current multi-year funding agreement. We appreciate your commitment to reporting on the progress and impact of your efforts and look forward to ongoing collaboration on the development of a new multi-year funding agreement.

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The 2024-25 Budget tabled today includes \$9,527,700 for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies for the period April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. The attached appendices (Appendix 1 – Detailed Schedule of Funding, and Appendix 2 – Funding Details) provide additional details about government’s investment and its intended uses.

Budget investments in training are aligned to ensure Saskatchewan’s labour force can keep pace with the opportunities created by industry. The *Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy* will provide a blueprint for post-secondary institutions and industry to prioritize investments in programs, services and initiatives that connect people to jobs, recognize skills and address labour needs for emerging sectors.

Continuing investments are identified in this budget, in support of *Health Human Resources Action Plan* opportunities for students to access critical health related education programs. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure these expansions are successful.

Demand for skilled tradespeople to support capital infrastructure projects across the province is ongoing. Investments in construction-related trades programming, offered by the post-secondary training system, to address labour market need remains a priority.

Ministry officials will be in contact with representatives at your institution to discuss the following 2024-25 accountability requirements and due dates:

- **Agreement to Submit Required Multi-Year Funding Reporting** – due April 15, 2024 (as per Eligibility Criteria 1 in the *Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding*);
- **Multi-Year Business Plan** – due April 29, 2024 (40 days after budget allocation notification);
- **Multi-Year Funding Accountability Reports** – two reports, one due with the Multi-Year Business Plan submission due April 29, 2024, and the other due by January 31, 2025 (as per Eligibility Criteria 2 and 3 in the MOU);
- **Tuition Schedules** – due May 15, 2024 (as per Eligibility Criteria 2 in the MOU); and
- **Performance Framework Report** – due January 31, 2025.

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We appreciate the contributions from your institution as we work together to ensure a bright future for Saskatchewan, by providing our residents with the high-quality education and training they need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Gordon S. Wyant, K.C.
Minister of Advanced Education



Jeremy Harrison
Minister of Immigration and Career Training

Attachments

cc: Riel Bellegarde, President and CEO, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
CeCe Baptiste, Vice-President of Finance, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies
Rebecca Carter, Deputy Minister of Advanced Education
Richelle Bourgoïn, Deputy Minister of Immigration and Career Training

APPENDIX 1
Detailed Schedule of Funding
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

Funding Schedule April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

	2024-25 Funding	2023-24 Funding
<u>Operating Funding</u>		
Base Operating Grant	\$ 3,141,500	\$ 3,141,500
2.2% Increase (one-time)	69,000	—
Operating Grant as per MYF MOU*	\$ 3,210,500	\$ 3,141,500
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i>	466,000	466,000
Total Operating Funding	\$ 3,676,500	\$ 3,607,500
<u>Training Programs and Services</u>		
Adult Basic Education Grant	850,000	850,000
Adult Basic Education - Essential Skills for the Workplace	200,000	200,000
On-Reserve Adult Basic Education	1,600,000	1,600,000
Total Essential Skills Programming	\$ 2,650,000	\$ 2,650,000
Skills Training Allocation	2,616,000	2,811,000
Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Program	500,000	500,000
Total Skills Training	\$ 3,116,000	\$ 3,311,000
Total Training Programs and Services	\$ 5,766,000	\$ 5,961,000
<u>Capital Funding</u>		
<i>Health Human Resources Action Plan</i>	—	127,000
Total Capital Funding	—	\$ 127,000
<u>Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship</u>		
Opportunity Scholarships	85,200	85,200
Total Scholarship Funding	\$ 85,200	\$ 85,200
Total Funding	\$ 9,527,700	\$ 9,780,700

Funding Source:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Advanced Education	\$ 3,761,700
Saskatchewan Ministry of Immigration and Career Training	\$ 5,766,000
Total Funding	\$ 9,527,700

* MYF MOU = Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Multi-Year Operating Funding Memorandum of Understanding
2021-22 to 2024-25 Amendment

APPENDIX 2
Funding Details
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies

Base Operating Funding

Student Support Services Model

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) 2024-25 base operating grant includes **\$359,800** targeted funding to increase student engagement, retention, and achievement. Cabinet directed the Ministry of Advanced Education to track the progress and results of implementing the improved Student Service Model. By **September 30, 2024**, please submit a report on the progress in identifying and meeting student needs. It is expected that the report will include:

- recruitment and guidance provided to students into appropriate programs;
- providing a safe and healthy learning environment that is sensitive to and supportive of Indigenous languages, cultures, and values;
- offering diverse training relevant to market and industry needs;
- accommodating students who wish to learn in their own communities by delivering knowledge through alternatives to the traditional classroom;
- providing academic and learning support services to maximize student success and career placement;
- providing information and advocacy for services and supports that can help individual students deal with challenges such as housing, funding, and child care services; and,
- statistics on student retention, completion, graduation, and labour market attachment.

Targeted Operating Funding

Health Human Resources Action Plan

To ensure a stable healthcare workforce across the province, the Government of Saskatchewan is funding a number of health care training initiatives. SIIT's 2024-25 Budget provides **\$466,000** targeted operating funding to continue supporting 20 seats in the Health Care Aide program and 18 seats in the Indigenous Practical Nursing program (year two).

Training Programs and Services

Essential Skills Programming

For 2024-25, the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training will provide SIIT **\$2,650,000** for the delivery of Adult Basic Education, Adult Basic Education-Essential Skills for the Workplace and On-Reserve Adult Basic Education. This funding is intended to support adult learners to develop basic employment skills, increase education and/or certification levels and gain prerequisites for further training that will lead to labour market attachment.

Skills Training Allocation

The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training will provide SIIT **\$1,361,000** for base Skills Training programming and **\$500,000** for the Aircraft Maintenance Engineer program in 2024-25. The Skills Training Allocation is for the delivery of accredited training programs that meet the labour market needs of employers across various sectors in your region and of the provincial economy.

- **Health Human Resources Action Plan**

The SIIT Skills Training Allocation also includes **\$605,000** to continue, as requested in 2023-24, training in health occupations, as follows.

Health Care Aide	20-additional seats	\$ 325,000 ¹
Indigenous Practical Nursing (year two)	18-additional seats	280,000 ²
Total Health Human Resources Action Plan Funding		\$ 605,000

¹ Targeted funding for ongoing increase to base allocation

² Targeted funding for 2024-25; not an ongoing increase to the base allocation

- **Skilled Trades Expansion**

The SIIT Skills Training Allocation also includes **\$650,000** to increase training in construction related trades programming as part of an investment in skilled trades training. Programming includes carpentry, welding, plumbing, construction trades, labourers, and heavy equipment operators. This is targeted funding and not an ongoing provision to the base allocation.

Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship

The Ministry of Advanced Education will disburse Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship payments in **October 2024**. Annual allocations are subject to budget appropriation and institution ability to match funds in the previous year. Reporting and fundraising progress will be revisited with institutions prior to the 2025-26 Budget.

By **June 28, 2024**, post-secondary institutions are to submit a letter to the Ministry of Advanced Education regarding scholarship priority areas (i.e., student categories and programs) for the upcoming year. By **July 31, 2024**, institutions are required to report actual (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) scholarship activity.