



Saskatchewan
Trucking
Association



NEWS RELEASE:

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STA Endorses U of S T&I Centre:

Highways Ministry 'On the Right Road'

Putting tax dollars toward research initiatives on "how" we build roads and infrastructure could offer long-term solutions for generations to come, says Al Rosseker of the Saskatchewan Trucking Association (STA).

The STA Executive Director today endorsed the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure proposed plans for a Saskatchewan Centre of Excellence for Transportation and Infrastructure.

"Saskatchewan's growing economy will grow more road and jobs. It's refreshing to see the Highways Ministry take the lead in such an important component of the economy."

Noting the recently-announced \$513-million highways budget as the largest in Saskatchewan's history, Mr. Rosseker said he was particularly impressed by the volume of positive initiatives the highways ministry has unveiled in a relatively short time (since the Saskatchewan Party was elected in November, 2007).

"The department is certainly on the right road as far as the trucking industry is concerned," Mr. Rosseker added. "This is an exciting time for truck transport; we're seeing a government that wants to lead change."

"Today's announcement of the Center for Excellence shows planning for the next generation, instead of simply the next election."

However, the STA Executive Director also noted the continuing driver shortage that hampers the truck transport industry. He called on the government to alleviate red tape and other problems that would allow immigrant drivers and tradespersons to relocate to Saskatchewan from overseas.

In Saskatchewan, close to 95% of the products and goods moved are truck-dependent. "Simply put, when the trucks stop, the North American economy stops," Mr. Rosseker warned. "We need immigrant drivers now."

The STA is a not-for-profit, trade association with close to 400 members. It is affiliated with the Alberta Motor Transport Association, Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association, British Columbia Trucking Association, Manitoba Trucking Association, Ontario Trucking Association and Quebec Trucking Association. As well, the STA has voting privileges on the Ottawa-based Canadian Trucking Alliance Board of Directors.

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