

# Media Release



**Saskatoon Public Schools**  
Inspiring Learning

## **September 23, 2011 – Newcomer Student Centre open for business**

With the opening of Saskatoon Public Schools Newcomer Student Centre, newcomer students and their families now have a one-stop centre as one of their first points of contact with the Public School Division. Offering services since August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Centre celebrated its grand opening this afternoon.

Staff at the Centre orients newcomer students and their families to our school division. Students who are new to Saskatoon Public Schools, and who do not speak English as their first language, (including First Nations, Inuit and Métis students), receive services from the Centre.

“It is a very exciting time to be living in Saskatoon,” says Mr. Darrell Utley, Vice-Chair of the Board of Education for Saskatoon Public Schools. “Our city is becoming home to families from across the globe and we welcome the diversity and rich mosaic these students bring to our schools. Our Newcomer Student Centre helps our educational partner the Saskatoon Open Door Society in meeting the needs of the thousands of new immigrants to Saskatoon that arrive each year. This is a vital service for the largest school division in the province, located in Canada’s fastest growing city.”

Staff at the Newcomer Student Centre introduce families to public schools; assess students’ language and mathematics skills; register students in school; and recommend support and programming for students needing EAL (English as an Additional Language) services. Since opening its doors on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the Centre has been providing services to five to eight families a day. Over 200 students have been assessed to date.

The Centre is open 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and is located in the Saskatoon Public Schools’ central office in down town Saskatoon (the corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Street East and Third Avenue).

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in the province operating 43 elementary schools, 10 secondary schools, and two associate schools. Learn more at [www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca](http://www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca)

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