



## News Release

**Release:** Immediate  
**Date:** Friday, December 4, 2009

**Saskatoon SK Canada** - One project – with several positive outcomes – was unveiled today at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School in Saskatoon.

Students enrolled in the school's Construction Technology program are building a ready-to-move (RTM) home that will be used as housing on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. The initiative was made possible by Breck Scaffold Solutions Inc., which is the general contractor on the project.

"Our students are excited to be working on a 'real world' project that will assist Whitecap," said Diane Boyko, Chair of the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education. "We very much appreciate the generosity of our partners who, like us, want to discover innovative ways to engage young people in their education. It wouldn't be possible if business didn't step forward."

In 2006, the Career Academy @ E.D. Feehan Catholic High School was created. It involves curriculum in three areas, or pathways, including the Construction Technology Pathway, in which students gain valuable experience and skills in the construction trades. Businesses such as Breck Scaffold Solutions offer materials and expertise. And other partners, like the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, provide a market for the finished products.

Royan Stewart, president of Breck Scaffold Solutions, said the partnership makes good sense for his business, which has jobs for graduates who have a willingness to work hard and learn the ropes. "As we looked at labour force issues in this province it became absolutely clear that we needed to focus more than ever on training. Our company is really pleased to be one of many businesses that have participated in the Construction Technology Pathway. These partnerships need to become the norm. They work for every one of the partners."

The RTM home, once constructed, will be purchased by the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and moved there immediately. "The entire Construction Technology initiative is the right project at the right time," stated Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear. "One of our top priorities at Whitecap is to address the growth we are experiencing. We now have more jobs than residents, with over 400 employees commuting from Saskatoon every day. Many of these people want to move back home to Whitecap, resulting in increased housing demand."

*. . . more*

*...cont'd*

“The Whitecap Dakota First Nation is very pleased to participate in this project by purchasing the home under construction,” Chief Bear added. “It is even more gratifying to know that the purchase of this home is having such a positive impact on young people who are acquiring marketable trades skills.”

Board Chair Diane Boyko also appreciates that while students are acquiring these skills, they are seeing how their hard work will benefit others. “Our mission as a Catholic school division is to inspire students to serve others and we’re accomplishing that,” she said.

**For more information please contact:**

Chief Darcy Bear  
Whitecap Dakota First Nation  
477-0908

Royan Stewart  
President  
Breck Scaffold Solutions  
242-5532

Donella Hoffman  
Communications Consultant  
Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools  
659-7077



## About the Construction Technology Pathway

The Construction Technology Pathway is part of the Career Academy at E.D. Feehan Catholic High School. Students enrolled in the pathway gain valuable skills and knowledge in the construction trades. Our various partners in the construction industry have made significant contributions to the program by creating learning opportunities for our students and providing materials, supplies and technical and practical expertise.

In 2006, when the pathway was first created, students helped build a Habitat for Humanity Home. Since then, students have constructed or assisted with many more homes, playhouses and sheds and have carried out renovation work within our school and for our partners.

Students in the program learn about the construction trades and gain 300 apprenticeship hours through the provincial government's Youth Apprenticeship Program. The pathway focuses on encouraging students to consider a career in one of the construction trades. Great effort is made to connect students in the pathway with potential employers. The program is open to all students within Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools; this fall students from three Catholic high schools are part of the team working on an exciting new project.

Staff who lead the Construction Technology Pathway at Feehan have always dreamed of securing a ready-to-move (RTM) home and building it for a community partner in need. This year, through generous donations and successful partnership development, students and staff in the Construction Technology Pathway are building a house for the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. This project became possible after Breck Scaffold Solutions, a local firm, recognized that students needed a major project of their own to work on. Representatives from Breck accessed the expertise of the Office of The Treaty Commissioner to arrange a partnership meeting between themselves, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. This set the project in motion and students are now building a home for the Whitecap community.

Thanks to generous donations from Affinity Credit Union and Co-op Home Centres, a large garage was built at Feehan, enhancing the building site where the Whitecap home will be built.

When describing the vision of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, we say we are Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge and Reaching Out to Transform the World. The Construction Technology Pathway within the Career Academy @ E.D. Feehan Catholic High School certainly models this vision. Students are firmly rooted in faith, they are growing in knowledge as they gain valuable skills in the construction trades and they are reaching out to the community, which is returning that good will through its support and encouragement of the students. Through the actions of all, we are confident we are transforming our world.