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### Working group established to review regulations surrounding on-campus residences

The Province of Manitoba will work with students and universities to explore ways of strengthening protections for students living in on-campus residences, Family Services and Consumer Affairs Minister Gord Mackintosh announced earlier this year.

“Our government is committed to providing secure and affordable living environments for all Manitobans, including students living on Manitoba campuses,” said Mackintosh. “We intend to work with students and our colleges and universities to determine how to best ensure that students who live on campus are treated appropriately.”

Mackintosh and Advanced Education Minister Diane McGifford met with representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students—Manitoba to discuss the creation of a working group.

The group will include students living in residence, university and college administration, the Council on Post-Secondary Education and the Residential Tenancies Branch. It will review current regulations in Manitoba as well as the arrangements on campuses across Canada and will work to develop province-wide protections for students in Manitoba.

“Students in Manitoba have put forward a strong campaign calling for such protections,” said Alanna Makinson, Chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students—Manitoba.

“We are excited to work closely with the Manitoba government and other stakeholders to ensure that students living in on-campus residences have a positive experience, while also ensuring that their rights as tenants are protected,” she said.

Currently on-campus housing provided by post-secondary institutions is exempt from the Manitoba Residential Tenancies Act, and is governed by regulations unique to their respective institutions. ♦

### Technical Vocational Learning to expand, modernize

The highly successful Technical Vocation Initiative (TVI) will get over \$6.4 million in new funding to help give students the tools and skills they need to meet the growing demand for workers who possess technical vocational skills, Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger announced this spring.

“Our government realizes that business and industry are rapidly changing and technology is an economic driver and a vital part of Manitoba’s future,” Selinger said. “The potential for success in the high-tech sector is limitless, and, with every new innovation and high-tech invention, the demand for skilled workers will continue to outstrip the supply of available workers.

“With the economic recovery underway, the need for skilled labour will become even more pressing. Today, we are investing over \$6.4 million to help prepare our students to meet those demands and challenges.”

The premier said the four-year program initiative will build on the success already achieved through TVI and expand to new focus areas including:

- increasing technical-vocational education opportunities and access to northern and remote communities;
- ensuring a sustainability focus including green technologies, and alternative and renewable energy sources that will focus on programming in energy-efficient and sustainable technologies with emphasis on geothermal, biomass, solar and wind; and
- continuing to work closely with education and industry partners to ensure curriculum will be directly related to world-class, cutting-edge resources for students and professional staff.

In addition, targeted equipment upgrades will be made to ensure students are working with the most current, state-of-the-art equipment, the premier noted.

“TVI has improved high-school technical-vocation programming through the development of new standards that meet industry requirements. Our high-school, college and university students are able to study robotics, aeronautical design and video-game development and design because they have the access to industry grade technology and equipment,” said Selinger.

According to recent studies, it is predicted that over the next 10 years, 75 per cent of jobs will require technical post-secondary education other than a university degree. And in the next two decades, 40 per cent of new jobs will be in skilled trades and technology. In 1998, that number was less than 20 per cent.

“Since TVI’s inception in 2004, we have seen an astounding 324 per cent enrolment increase in the High School Apprenticeship Option. That tells me that we are on the right track. We are developing and supporting programs and initiatives that keep our youth interested, in school and with a keen eye on their future careers,” Selinger said. ♦