



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Sault College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Launch of Renewable Energy Education



(Sault Ste. Marie, ON January 29, 2015) In recent years, a number of unique partnerships have enhanced the learning environment of the College and one of those key partnerships is with Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic in Bridgetown, Barbados (SJPP). The inaugural course in photovoltaic installations began on the island

last week and Sault College representatives were on-hand to officially launch the course and open the impressive lab.

“Sault College is pleased to offer its expertise in the training of Solar Photovoltaic Installers,” says Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College. “The demand for training in this area is high due to solar projects recently approved in Barbados. SJPP’s goal is to become a leader in the Caribbean Region for Renewable Energy Training and with the launch of the course and opening of the lab, combined with the expertise that Sault College has in this area, will greatly assist them in meeting this goal.”

In describing the rationale behind the new course launch, SJPP's Curriculum Development Officer (Ag.), Audrey Jones-Drayton notes, "Last year, the Polytechnic undertook a Labour Market Survey in collaboration with Sault College to project the occupational demands over the next few years and ensure our curriculum remained relevant to market demand. The survey indicated that hundreds needed to be trained in the renewable energy-related areas. With this course, what we are really launching is renewable energy education in Barbados. We are expecting there will be great interest and a high level of participation."

Over a total of three years, Sault College and SJPP will work collaboratively to develop training to support the growing Renewable Energy Industry in Barbados and throughout the Caribbean. In addition, this partnership is further strengthened by support from the Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) Council of Barbados, as well as the SJPP Advisory Committee for Renewable Energy, comprising educators and leading entrepreneurs and manufacturers within the industry.

The course, Photovoltaic Installations Level 1, targets participants with either one year experience in the solar photovoltaic industry and/or a Certificate or Diploma in Electrical Installation, or its equivalent. Upon successful completion of the course, graduates will receive the SJPP Unit Certificate in Photovoltaic Installations 1 or the National Vocational Qualification in selected units for Roofer - Fitter Level 2.

The Sault College-SJPP partnership is part of a Canadian Government commitment to the Caribbean region through the Caribbean Education For Employment Program (C-EFE). Funding for the C-EFE program is provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) and is administered and supported by Colleges and Institutes Canada.

About Sault College and Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Partnership

The Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP), the premier trainer in technical and vocational education and training institution in Barbados has, under the Caribbean Education for Employment programme (C-EFE), partnered with Sault College in the field of renewable energy. Through this partnership the Polytechnic will strengthen the capacity of its staff to manage and deliver demand-driven, learner-centered competency based education towards the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) in renewable energy. Special attention will be given to Career Guidance, gender mainstreaming, Prior-Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) and Entrepreneurship, all fundamental to creating a skilled workforce and thriving industry in renewable energy thus reducing the nation's dependency on foreign energy fuel. This partnership is further strengthened by support from the TVET Council of Barbados and the SJPP Advisory Committee for renewable energy which comprises educators and leading entrepreneurs and manufacturers within the industry.

In photo from left to right: His Excellency, Mr. Richard Hanley, High Commissioner, Canada, Sen. Dr. The Hon. Esther Byer, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development, Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College, Mr. Ralph Williams, CEO, Williams Solar, Mr. Hector Belle, Principal, SJPP.

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