



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Thomas More College Breaks Ground on \$5 Million Addition

Saskatoon (May 26, 2016) –

St. Thomas More College (STM), University of Saskatchewan, officially broke ground today on a new \$5 million renewal and expansion to its current facilities. As a Canada 150 initiative, the North Building Renewal Project includes major additions and renewal to STM's research library; increased facility energy efficiency and protection of the environment; an expansion of the cafeteria, along with student-centered space and installation of a 5-story elevator to provide total access throughout the College to the public.

This new development is on the opposite side of the STM campus from the major building addition that was completed in 2013. With this project, space will be added to the current main floor of the STM Library bringing all the collections to one floor and enable expansion of the cafeteria. According to STM president Dr. Terry Downey, "this new addition will enhance access for undergraduate and graduate students to the unique collections in STM's library while also providing additional research and study space. Our very popular cafeteria, *Choices*, will now be able to adequately serve consistently heavy daily demand from our own students and many others from across the University of Saskatchewan campus."

A 50-year-old air handling unit, cold winter drafts and lack of an elevator to serve all floors, posed mounting challenges for the College. CFO and Director of Administration, Derrin Raffey prioritized these issues in designing the renewal project. "We knew that to increase our energy efficiency and solve environmental challenges we needed to replace the aging air handling unit and construct a new north entrance foyer," said Raffey. "Building an elevator to serve all floors of the College and provide access for all persons, has also been a long-time goal which will be welcomed by all."

The new student lounge (below the library expansion) and front reception area to the College will provide meaningful new student-centered space at STM. Student group offices and a new student lounge will form the largest part of the space. The renovation of the lower library collection into a new reception area for the College will create space for student advisors that will be front and center at the College and allow for easier access to Student Services.

It is anticipated that this latest STM building project will be completed in the late spring of 2017.

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