



Press Release

Vale invests \$353,000 to support R. D. Parker Mineral Sciences Program

For immediate release

June 18, 2010

Vale's Manitoba Operations is establishing a \$353,000 endowment fund that will support the re-establishment of a Mineral Sciences Industrial Vocational program at Thompson's R. D. Parker Collegiate.

The announcement was made at the official opening of a classroom located in the school's aviation hangar that was built specifically for the program. The Vale endowment gift will support teacher instruction and associated operating costs for the program over a four-year period.

"We are honoured to be involved as a partner in what will believe will be a successful initiative to provide young people with exposure to the minerals industry at the high school level," said Stu Waring, General Manager – Mining and Milling, Vale Manitoba Operations. "This investment reflects our company's belief that building capacity in our young people by supporting leading educational initiatives is the best way for us to build a positive legacy and sustainable future in northern Manitoba."

Students that complete the Mineral Sciences Program will receive credit towards their high school graduation, and discussions are proceeding to allow graduates of the program to receive advanced standing for further post-secondary education. The program will provide students with an introduction to processes and skills that will be integral to building the future economy of northern Manitoba in any number of industries, including surveying, civil engineering, process control, and geology.

In addition to delivery at R. D. Parker in Thompson, an online version of the curriculum has been developed that will allow students in other northern and First Nation communities to participate in the program through distance delivery of the course materials.

It is expected that the first intake of students into the program will occur in September 2010.

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