



REGINA
RESEARCH
PARK

SOCO Board appoints new chairperson

Blair Swystun, Acting Chief Financial Officer of the Crown Investments Corporation has been appointed Chairperson of the SOCO Board of Directors, replacing Mike Shaw, former Senior Vice-President of Crown Corporation Services.

Swystun has been part of the Crown Investments Corporation team for the past seven years. His career with the provincial government spans 22 years, including positions with the Department of Finance and in the Crown sector.

Swystun is looking forward to expanding his relationship with the Crown Corporation, as Chairperson of the SOCO Board. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the SOCO team, under Doug Tastad's capable leadership. I am impressed with and proud of the highly effective and professional way in which all SOCO staff have responded to the challenges brought about by the organizational changes the corporation has experienced over the past 22 months, with the transfer of SOCO's investment activities to Crown Investments Corporation."

An interim Board of Directors was announced in the spring of 2002, comprised of three CIC officials: Blair Swystun, CIC Acting Senior V-P of Crown Corporation Services Kathryn Buitenhuis and Mike Shaw.

Kathryn Buitenhuis remains a member of the current SOCO Board of Directors, joined by Glen Veikle, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance.

news LETTER

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O'Sullivan now at helm of Ag-West Biotech

After keeping Saskatoon's research community in suspense for several months, the Board of Directors for Ag-West Biotech Inc. has appointed Dr. Ashley O'Sullivan as the company's new President and CEO.

Ag-West Biotech supports the development of Saskatchewan's bio-based industries through investments, aiding in strategic alliances, regulatory advice, communications and education activities. Funding for Ag-West is provided by Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization.

Jerome Konecsni, Chair of the Ag-West Board of Directors, says, "A well-known figure in Saskatchewan's life science community, Dr. O'Sullivan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Ag-West. We are extremely pleased to have a man of his caliber to fill the shoes of our past President, Peter McCann."

Dr. O'Sullivan, born in Cork City, Ireland, completed a B.Sc. in Botany and a Ph.D. from University College Cork before emigrating to Canada in 1973. His career in agriculture research began at the University of Alberta in the Plant Sciences Department. He then moved on to Monsanto Canada, where he conducted agricultural research and development in Western Canada.

In 1978, O'Sullivan joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He moved quickly through the organization acting as Research Head at the Lacombe Research Station; Assistant Director at the Lethbridge Research Station; Director of the Swift Current Research Station; and Director of the Saskatoon Research Centre. During his career with Agriculture Canada, O'Sullivan had the opportunity to work on an extensive range of national and international research projects, including projects in India, Brazil and China.

The opportunity to lead the Ag-West Biotech team is one that O'Sullivan finds very exciting. "Ag-West has earned an excellent reputation in the life science industry, not only in Saskatchewan, but across Canada and around the world. I am extremely honoured to assume the role as President, working with this exceptional team of people."

O'Sullivan sees Ag-West Biotech's role expanding as the organization pursues a broader base of bio-economic opportunities for the province.

"We're still at a very early stage in developing the bio-based economy, but there are a number of areas where Saskatchewan has the potential to excel," says O'Sullivan, citing bio-energy, bio-products, nutraceuticals and functional foods as areas where huge advances are already taking place.

"I've been working closely with the boards of the Saskatchewan Nutraceutical Network, Bio-Products Saskatchewan and Ag-West Biotech to look at how we might more effectively capture the maximum value from the bio-economic opportunities where Saskatchewan has a comparative advantage. I'm very excited to be participating in strategic planning to accomplish these objectives," says O'Sullivan.

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LEADING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

World's first mineral sand processing facility to be built at Regina Research Park

Titanium Corporation Inc. (TSXV:TIC) ("TCI") recently announced it is investing \$5 million to build and operate the world's first mineral sand processing facility at the Regina Research Park. The pilot plant will demonstrate Titanium Corporation's proprietary technology to produce high-grade titanium bearing minerals and zircon from Syncrude Canada's centrifuge plant tailings in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Eric Cline, Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Research Council and Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, developers of Regina Research Park, says, "Titanium's investment in Saskatchewan demonstrates that we are fostering the right climate to attract new investment to the province. Titanium's presence will bring new opportunities and new jobs for Saskatchewan."

George Elliott, Titanium Corporation Inc. Chairman and CEO, says, "Titanium Corporation's partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council and Regina Research Park to build this facility is a significant milestone for us – and for Canada. This is a major step toward becoming the world's first major supplier of titanium-bearing minerals and zircon concentrates from Alberta's oil sands. It's a real win for Canada."

The Syncrude tailings stream could contribute up to eight and five per cent of the global market for titanium-bearing minerals and zircon respectively. The zircon

market is already tight, and with the growing need for new titanium supplies, the extraction of minerals from Syncrude's tailings stream could become the premier North American mineral sand project.

"Titanium Corporation's partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council and Regina Research Park to build this facility is a significant milestone for us – and for Canada."

***– George Elliott,
Chair & CEO, Titanium Corporation***

At more than 30 per cent, Syncrude's titanium and zircon-bearing tailings are much richer than in mineral content than the average mineral sands deposits which average between two to four per cent.

Elliott says the pilot plant will blend existing Canadian oil-sand processing technology with conventional mineral sands processing technology. "This takes another major step closer to being able to recover one of the world's most valuable resources from a secure, long-term source of supply that has so far been going to waste."

Titanium Corporation will lease 2,800 square feet in the SRC's existing pilot plant and construct a 4,250 square foot pilot plant building immediately to the east of the SRC facility. The cost of the pilot plant will be approximately \$5 million.

The facility is expected to be operational by Spring 2004. The pilot plant will process up to five tonnes per hour of titanium and zircon bearing sand from Syncrude's centrifuge plant tailings stream and will yield marketable titanium bearing mineral and zircon products for the manufacturing of industrial and retail goods. This new pilot plant is the culmination of over three years of dedicated research and development work by Titanium's world class metallurgical team and will serve as the basis for the design of a commercial-scale mineral sand operation utilizing Titanium Corporation's patent-pending technology.

O'Sullivan now at helm of Ag-West

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"I'm also encouraged by the support we are receiving from Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization. They are the principal stakeholder in Ag-West Biotech and have been very supportive of our efforts."

Saskatchewan's rapidly expanding bio-industries also benefit from the impressive infrastructure of research organizations that has been established in Saskatoon. "We have an outstanding bio-economic cluster of research and development organizations here, which gives our province the tremendous capacity to identify and develop new value-added opportunities in biotechnology, bio-processing, natural products chemistry, nutraceuticals and functional foods," says O'Sullivan.

O'Sullivan is also looking forward to building on research and industry partnerships first developed during his career at Ag Canada. "Ag-West supports a much broader base of interests than when I was with Agriculture Canada, but I'll still be working with many of the same companies."

Now in his new office at Ag-West Biotech, at 101 - 111 Research Drive, O'Sullivan is enjoying the workplace environment at Innovation Place.

"I actually had an office here once before, during the expansion and renovation of the Ag Canada Saskatoon Research Centre. Innovation Place is a great place to work. The facilities are fantastic. The people are great. It's really an enjoyable environment to work in. I'm also looking forward to helping Innovation Place attract new businesses to Saskatoon and to Saskatchewan, in my role as President of Ag-West Biotech," says O'Sullivan.

HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Centre for Sustainable Communities supports research to link social policy and environmental infrastructure

The Centre for Sustainable Communities (CSC) of the University of Regina is a partnership that incorporates public and social policy development and cultural change with technological innovation. The Centre brings together university faculty, staff and researchers, to link social policy and environmental infrastructure for the creation of competitive cities and healthy communities.

The CSC is an important component of the University of Regina's collaboration with the Communities of Tomorrow Partnership and works in close partnership with the National Research Council (NRC) in Regina. The CSC will also draw on expertise from other university research institutions, including the Petroleum Technology Research Centre and the Canadian Plains Research Center.

The institute was formally established in April, 2003. In January, CSC offices will open within Regina Research Park at 6 Research Drive.

The objectives of the CSC include placing the University of Regina, the City of Regina and the province of Saskatchewan at the forefront of sustainable community development, says CSC Acting Director Bob Schad. By bringing together the best science, research and policy leaders, the CSC plans to make the U of R and the City of Regina model communities for all aspects of sustainability practices and education.

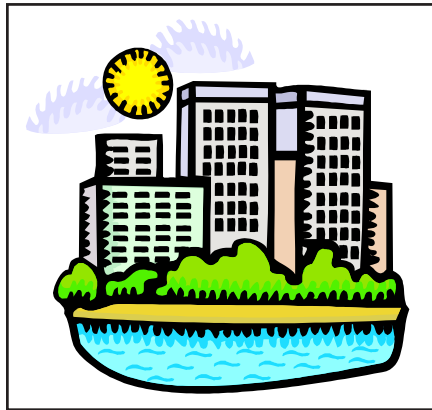
"The Centre will develop integrated approaches for all aspects of community sustainability to assist communities to make the transition culturally, frugally and rapidly to sustainability. The outcomes of the Centre will result in commercialization of products and services that enable sustainable communities to flourish," says Schad.

The CSC defines sustainability quite broadly, says Schad. "We want to link social policy with environmental infrastructure to develop competitive cities and healthy communities."

The institute takes a multidisciplinary approach to sustainable development. "The National Research Council is very much involved on the pure science side through the Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure Research. However, to achieve a sustainable community, you also have to encourage behavioural change and cultural change. You have to examine what this means for the people of a community. We're making a very direct attempt to not only look at the science side in the research projects we support, but also look at the policy issues and behavioral change."

Seventeen research projects are currently being supported by the CSC. These projects focus on environmental sustainability issues including water quality, air pollution, noise control, energy conservation, waste management, education and affordable housing.

Schad says another focus of CSC is the ongoing development of a sustainable campus. The CSC has currently funded two projects which support campus sustainability research. The first is "Sustainable Crime Prevention and Campus Safety," through the U of R's Department of Psychology. The second is a predesign assessment of storm water collection in drainage systems in the U of R's Laboratory Building to be constructed in 2004.



The CSC is also involved in improving campus infrastructure. "We have submitted a proposal to Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) to build a fibre optic link between the main campus, the College Avenue campus and Regina Research Park. We then envision an additional fibre optic link being established to SIAST. This would result in a high speed optical network that links the entire knowledge corridor in Regina. The proposal also includes a fibre optic link to the Science Centre, the Sound Stage and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. Ultimately, we envision the public being able to visit the Science Centre for example, and link up to research being conducted on campus, in an effort to build community awareness," says Schad. "This all came together because of the sustainability agenda."

Locating at Regina Research Park brings CSC in close proximity to its collaborative partners, including the U of R and the NRC. "Our location makes it easy to engage the university's faculty, staff and students, and to develop synergies with our research partners," says Schad.

Schad is optimistic the CSC will have a significant impact on the community, positioning Regina as a model of socio-economic progress and environmental excellence. "As we make our community more sustainable, and bring products and services to commercialization, we will be developing an environment that will attract other companies within this field who want to locate here to share in the synergy that's been created."

For more information about the Centre for Sustainable Communities, access the organization's website at www.uregina.ca/csc or call (306) 337-2349.

updates

AURP President enjoys initial visit to Innovation Place

Bruce Wright, the Arizona-based President of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP), recently had his first opportunity to tour Innovation Place, a member research park.

The AURP represents just over 200 university research parks and related organizations, with an individual membership exceeding 400. "The AURP is dedicated to bringing together parks and park administrators, as well as those who supply support to the research industry. There is a sharing of best practices and discussions of issues that are of importance to research parks," says Wright.

"I was incredibly impressed with Innovation Place. It's proven to be a very successful model for other research parks in North America. Interestingly enough, it's built on the same model as the research park that I represent, the University of Arizona Science and Technology Park. This suggests to me that we're doing the right things with our park," says Wright.

He noted the diverse mix of organizations and companies that comprise Innovation Place – from government and university research centres to private sector businesses.

"I was also very impressed with the quality of facilities at Innovation Place, from the bio-processing centre, to the laboratories, to the support facilities – including conference and meeting space," says Wright.

This may have been Wright's first visit to Innovation Place, but it definitely won't be his last. The AURP President says, "We're exploring ways that we can make the AURP much more valuable to the research parks in Canada. Our membership is predominantly in the United States, but we are very interested in making sure that we're providing good services and good value to the parks in Canada. We're going to be working with people like Austin Beggs, who is on our Board of Directors, and others, to try and develop a more aggressive program

for the Canadian parks. As a consequence of that, I see myself and our management team becoming much more visible in Canada over the next year or two."

Wright says the AURP is contemplating the possibility of hosting an all-Canada research park conference in 2005, to examine ways to strengthen the research park process in our country.

He is also looking to strengthen the

park-to-park relationship between Innovation Place and the University of Arizona Science and Technology Park. "We're talking about the possibility of forming a strategic partnership or alliance, and trying to coordinate some of our marketing and recruiting activities more closely. This could include sharing information about the companies in each of our parks, which could lead to joint venture opportunities," says Wright.

Bio-ID Diagnostic develops new SARS test

Bio-ID Diagnostic Inc., Canada, headquartered at Innovation Place, is pleased to announce that it has developed a new test for SARS based on the company's patented DNA sequencing technology. This technology, called MultiGEN, offers the capability of reliably processing large numbers of samples, and will thereby allow the creation of a globally-effective early warning system for the disease.

MultiGEN technology identifies the unique DNA sequence that is specific for the Coronavirus-causing SARS. "Our MultiGEN test method is based on the recognized Gold Standard method of DNA finger-printing, and is much more accurate than alternative testing methods that often produce falsely positive results," says Dr. T.V. Moorthy, founder of Bio-ID Diagnostic and CEO of the company. "The result is confirmed within minutes by checking the DNA sequence against all the DNA sequences registered with GenBank, the global genetic repository at the U.S. National Institute of Health."

The technology could help effectively manage new serious threats to global health such as SARS. "MultiGEN is the only technology that offers the immediate practical tools to identify and contain a SARS type of epidemic," says Moorthy.

SARS presents clinically as an atypical pneumonia syndrome that can also be caused by a variety of bacteria and other viruses, including Influenza and the Respiratory Syncytial Virus. The company is in the process of adding to the SARS test an ability to test for these additional agents. "This 'Syndrome Driven' approach will finally give front-line physicians the information they need to quickly differentiate patients with SARS from those with less life threatening conditions such as the flu," states Dr. Roger Hodgkinson, Medical Director of the company.

Bio-ID Diagnostic Inc. was able to develop the new SARS test with the kind provision by the Canadian National Microbiology Laboratory of non-infectious DNA segments from the virus isolated during the recent SARS outbreak in Toronto.

For further information, contact Dr. T.V. Moorthy at (306) 975-9161 or visit the company's website @ www.bio-id-diagnostic.com.

Changes of address or other updates can be directed to: Wonda Kirychuk, Innovation Place, 114-15 Innovation Boulevard, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 2X8, or call (306) 933-6581. Email: wkirychuk@innovationplace.com.

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