



Redberry Lake

Biosphere Region

April 2, 2012

School of Environment and Sustainability seal partnership

The School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) at the University of Saskatchewan and Redberry Lake Biosphere Region (RLBR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the already existing partnership. “We have been working closely with the Biosphere Reserve for years now”, explains Maureen Reed, Acting Director and Professor at SENS. “Formalizing this collaboration in a Memorandum of Understanding was the right step forward.” By signing the

agreement, SENS and RLBR will be able to expand the scope of research & education projects relating to the environment and sustainability sectors.

One key feature of the Memorandum is to offer regular field trips for students to RLBR. Last year’s excursion was a three days hands-on training on field research methods in different ecosystems like rivers, wetlands and grasslands. The students also had the chance to talk to local farmers, ranchers and other community representatives about their concerns and ideas on how to preserve this land for future generations and – at the same time – make a living with today’s challenges.

“Along with a great experience during field trips like this comes a wonderful side effect: The students discover the potential of this area and their interest in the Biosphere Reserve as an important site,” says Andrew Hawrysh, RLBR Chair. “Sometimes this leads to Master and PhD students conducting research for their thesis.” So far there are two graduate students researching RLBR this year. The Memorandum of Understanding between SENS and RLBR will benefit both organizations, students and future research.



Left to right: Vladimir Kricsfalusy, Associate Professor at SENS, Maureen Reed, Acting Director and Professor at SENS, Andrew Hawrysh, Chair of RLBR and John Kindrachuk, Executive Director of RLBR.