

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010**

**STEINBACH CREDIT UNION (SCU) OPENS NEW DOORS
Largest financial institution branch in Manitoba now open**

Winnipeg, MB – Steinbach Credit Union’s second branch in Winnipeg (1575 Lagimodiere Boulevard) has opened its doors to the public. At 42,000 square feet it is believed to be the largest financial institution branch ever built in Manitoba, and perhaps Canada. This substantial investment in Winnipeg reflects the confidence of SCU, Manitoba’s largest credit union, during this time of economic recovery.

“Our board shared a vision of providing a new state-of-the-art sustainable facility for our members, while staying true to our core values of personalized member services “said Board President, Ted Falk “Reinvesting in services for our members is at the heart of SCU’s vision for the future.” This strategy has proven successful for SCU which has seen its assets grow from \$1 Billion in 2001 to over \$2.8 Billion in 2009.

Natural prairie light flows in through floor to ceiling glass as members are treated to personalized service via teller “pods”, a unique banking feature only beginning to emerge in Canada. Self-contained secure units, these “pods” allow members and tellers to personally interact without the traditional barriers of drywall and Plexiglas. A staffed drive-thru teller window provides additional banking services not available from traditional ATMs while its convenience is not lost on young parents with children in the car or members with reduced mobility.

“Hotel” offices house the 60 permanent staff and provide flexibility to respond to growth in demand for resources in the areas of wealth management, mutual funds, and commercial and agricultural lending and small business loans – a breadth of services not commonly found in the branch offices of financial institutions. A 23 foot water feature in the main member hall and the work of local Manitoba artists displayed throughout the building both add to the warm and inviting ambience, a strong part of SCU’s vision for this branch.

“All of our members who live or work in Winnipeg are now virtually within 15 minutes of an SCU branch,” said CEO Glenn Friesen. “It’s all about convenience and providing a positive member experience. We already have members who live in this area and now we’re much closer to home.”

From the ground up, SCU’s latest investment in Manitoba reflects its commitment to sustainable development, one of the core tenants of the Seven International Co-Operative Principles of Credit Unions. Approximately six miles of geothermal piping and 39 heat pumps make this the largest privately-funded geothermal construction project in Manitoba. Over 600 panes of low-emission glass, occupancy light sensors and specialized roofing materials all contribute to the building’s sustainability. Built by Three Way Builders of Steinbach, Manitoba and designed by architect, Greg Ward, the building is slated to receive its Manitoba Power Smart designation this spring.

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For more information, please contact:

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Background Fact Sheet

Fast facts about Steinbach Credit Union:

- \$2.85 Billion in assets in 2009
- 75,000 members
- Largest credit union in Manitoba, 7th largest credit union in Canada
- 440 permanent staff
- Now 3 branches – 2 in Winnipeg, 1 in Steinbach

Lagimodiere and Almey Branch –

The Building:

- Over 42,000 square feet, the largest financial institution branch in Manitoba, and perhaps Canada
- 679 Triple-glazed, argon-filled, low-emission windows
- 10,704 meters of geothermal pipe, the largest privately-funded geothermal construction project in Manitoba.
 - Required 300 boreholes to be drilled, each reaching 15-18 meters in depth.
 - 39 heat pumps provide heating and cooling
- Reflective, white thermoplastic olefin on the roof
- Occupancy dependent lighting
- Local Manitoba artists' works featured throughout
- 23 foot water feature
- Locally sourced Manitoba tyndall stone
- Four islands of secure self-contained teller pods
- Staffed drive-thru teller window, in addition to ATM access
- "Hotel" offices house 60 permanent staff
- Work commenced in 2008, took 20 months to complete
- Built by Three Way Builders Ltd., of Steinbach
- Designed by Greg Ward, Architect

Our Services:

- Anticipate initially serving 15-20,000 members, can accommodate 40,000 members
- Members can open new accounts, make money transfers, conduct foreign exchange, apply for consumer lending, and utilize other personal and commercial financial services.
- Staff onsite can assist clients with wealth management, mutual funds, commercial and agricultural lending, and small business loans.
- Branch hours can be found at <http://www.scu.mb.ca/home/scuforyou/contact/locations>.
- Membership is open to everyone.