



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BU Holding Company Integrates WESTARC and Rural Development Institute

BRANDON, MB – The Brandon University Holding Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the University, recently accepted the recommendation of the Board of Directors of WESTARC Group Inc. that the activities of WESTARC be integrated with those of the Rural Development Institute (RDI) of Brandon University.

“Brandon University is going through a refocusing of its outreach activities,” said Scott Lamont, Brandon University Vice-President, Administration & Finance. “WESTARC and RDI will be integrating their operations, with a more significant role being played by RDI. We are working to facilitate an orderly transition, and WESTARC will continue to operate over the next year as the contracts and projects currently underway are completed or renewed.”

Dr. Louis P. Visentin, President of Brandon University, has appointed Dr. Robert Annis, Director of RDI, to also serve as Director of WESTARC in order to facilitate the integration of operations.

WESTARC has served for almost two decades as a non-profit consulting group that has concerned itself with the applied research, training and economic development needs of communities and organizations in western Canada. WESTARC has provided project management, research, training and consultancy services to meet the needs of communities, businesses and organizations.

RDI was established in 1989 and functions as a research and development unit designed to promote, coordinate, initiate, and conduct multi-disciplinary research and outreach activities on rural issues. The Institute provides an interface between academic research efforts and the community by acting as a conduit of rural research information and by facilitating community involvement in rural development. RDI is the first contact for many community organizations interested in rural issues. The Institute works closely with Brandon University’s new academic Department of Rural Development, rural communities, policy makers and practitioners and builds strong links with researchers across Canada.

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