

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Luther College announces largest donation in the school's 100 year history for the renewal and expansion project at the high school campus

3 October 2013 – Dr Bryan Hillis, president of Regina's Luther College, today announced a major donation of \$2.5 million to help with new construction at the 100-year-old high school.

Prominent Saskatoon business owner, chartered accountant and lawyer, Merlis Belsher, a Luther College High School alumni and former LIT participant, made the donation to refurbish the current gymnasium and otherwise aid in the renewal and construction project. The current gymnasium will be named the Merlis Belsher Heritage Centre.

Belsher's donation also includes new locker rooms and an outdoor sports team room to be named in honour of John Chomay who taught physical education at Luther, started the Luther Invitational Basketball Tournament (LIT), and was a mentor and a good friend of Belsher's.

"My parents died tragically in 1951 when I was 15. Luther was not only my school, it was my home. Luther provided personal support, spiritual guidance, a strong education, diverse sports activities, and direction for a university education thus paving the way for my future career," said Merlis Belsher.

Construction at Luther College High School began in June 2012 and the refurbished heritage centre is part of a large scale renewal and expansion project which includes 3 new dedicated fine arts classrooms, a new gymnasium, new student commons area, new student fitness training centre and upgrades to existing structures.

"Luther is celebrating 100 years of delivering quality education in Saskatchewan but after 100 years, we have aging infrastructure and an increasing number of students. This project was necessary to ensure students can experience Luther's tradition of excellence for another 100 years," said President Hillis.

President Hillis says the generous Belsher donation is part of a larger capital campaign entitled *A Time to Build* and enables Luther to maintain a significant piece of history. "The heritage centre, home to LIT, the annual musical, choir concerts and daily chapel services, holds a special place for not only our alumni and students, but the entire Regina community."

Media release



Belsher adds “Luther reinforces that in addition to one’s career, we have a responsibility to our community, society in general and a moral duty to help those in need. It is with humility and gratitude that I do what I can to support Luther College with its endeavours to build for the future so other students may benefit as I did. I am honoured to make this donation to Luther College”, says Belsher.

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