

Noteworthy

August 15, 2003



Premier launches Order of Newfoundland and Labrador nomination process

Thursday, August 14, Premier Roger Grimes unveiled the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, considered the highest honour a Newfoundlander and Labradorian can receive. Lieutenant Governor Edward Roberts and Chief Justice Clyde Wells joined with the Premier in the ceremony.

"It is a pleasure to launch the nomination process for this prestigious honour, as a way to recognize citizens whose excellence and achievement have benefited the people of the province," said Premier Grimes.

"As Chancellor of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, it will be a great joy to bestow upon our deserving and distinguished citizens this prestigious commendation," said Lieutenant Governor Roberts.

The Order of Newfoundland and Labrador is the highest honour in the province. The objective of the Order is to recognize individuals who have demonstrated excellence and achievement in any field of endeavour benefiting in an outstanding manner Newfoundland and Labrador and its residents. The criteria for receiving this award are very high.

An independent committee chaired by the Chief Justice of Newfoundland and Labrador will review supporting documentation provided by nominators to determine Order inductees.

"It is my great pleasure and privilege to chair the advisory council and have the opportunity to learn more about the outstanding individuals in our province," said Chief Justice Wells. "I am certain we will receive many worthy nominations."

Nominations for the first inductees into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador will be accepted for this year until September 30.

Nominations may be made at any time throughout the year and will remain active for a three year period.

"It is a privilege to have created the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Order of Newfoundland and Labrador will celebrate all that reflects the innovative, creative, compassionate and humanitarian nature that is Newfoundland and Labrador. I look forward to recognizing just some of the remarkable individuals who make outstanding contributions to our province," said Premier Grimes.

Further information can be found at: www.gov.nl.ca/onl or by contacting (709) 729-7961

Government appoints Voisey's Bay monitor

Mines and Energy Minister Walter Noel and Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Wally Andersen announced this week the appointment of Donald Blake of Happy Valley-Goose Bay as the Voisey's Bay monitor to oversee hiring practices at the Voisey's Bay site in Labrador.

Mr. Blake has worked in the mining industry for more than 20 years and has most recently worked as the environmental, health and safety monitor for the Innu Nation on the Voisey's Bay project.

"Government committed to establishing a Voisey's Bay monitor earlier this year to ensure that the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company's (VBNC) adjacency principle was being followed," said Minister Noel. "Although government is confident that appropriate hiring practices are being followed, this will add another level of examination to the process.

Minister Wally Andersen said that the hiring of Mr. Blake will be good news for Labradorians. "Through Mr. Don Blake, the VBNC adjacency principle will be enforced and monitored to ensure that Labradorians will receive top benefits in the Voisey's Bay project."

Mr. Blake's contract is effective immediately and he will work out of the Department of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Approval in principle for wind power project

Mines and Energy Minister Walter Noel announced that government has given approval in principle for the establishment of a demonstration wind power project to supply electricity to the province. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (Hydro) and the proponent, NeWind, will now enter into negotiations to finalize a power purchase agreement.

"The establishment of a wind power demonstration project will create a new industry in Newfoundland and Labrador, an industry which seems to be a natural fit for our windswept climate," said Minister Noel. "Although the final details have yet to be concluded between Hydro and NeWind, government is confident that a power purchase agreement will be reached in the near future.

"This project will establish the future prospects for this technology in the province, while providing clean and renewable energy. Additional wind power will help Canada meet its Kyoto targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and will help to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

"In addition to creating employment opportunities in the area, the wind farm, which will consist of wind turbine generators towering approximately 150 feet in height, will be a tourist attraction as has happened in other provinces where wind is being utilized as a source of energy," added Minister Judy Foote, MHA for the District of Grand Bank.

