

Noteworthy

Public Consultations on Provincial Health Charter

Gerald Smith, Minister of Health and Community Services, has announced a public consultation process for the development of a provincial health charter. To facilitate the public review process, Minister Smith released a discussion paper, *Building a Healthier Future*. This document contains a proposed health charter which outlines both government's responsibility for the health and community services system and the general public's role in their own health and wise use of the health system.

"Government committed to developing a provincial health charter in the Speech from the Throne and in Healthier Together, our provincial strategic health plan," said Minister Smith. "I am pleased that we are taking the next steps in finalizing that charter – seeking input from our health stakeholders and the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador."

In order to ensure that the final health charter meets the needs and expectations of the people of the province, Minister Smith said the general public must become involved in the development process. "It is important that we hear from those who are using our health system – the people of the province," he said. "Throughout the process of working to improve the health and community services system, government has emphasized the importance of cooperation and collaboration. By working together with the general public and key stakeholders, we will ensure that the services we provide meet the needs of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians."

The feedback received from the consultation process will help finalize a provincial health charter. "The final document will reflect the expectations of government, stakeholders and the general public and will then serve as a guide for decision making and service delivery for government and an educational tool for the general public", said Minister Smith.

To obtain a copy of *Building a Healthier Future* please contact the Department of Health and Community Services at toll free 1-866-248-9662, fax: (709) 729-6737 or through the department's web site at www.gov.nf.ca/health/publications

Companies to meet White Rose commitments

Mines and Energy Minister Walter Noel said that he has been assured by Husky General Manager for East Coast Development, Will Roach, that White Rose commitments will be kept.

"We have spoken to officials from Aker Maritime Kiewit Canada (AMKC) and have been advised that the work program at Marystown has been slightly delayed due to detailed engineering which must be completed before certain fabrication activities can take place, said Minister Noel. "This is not unusual for a project of this size and we have been assured that the overall project schedule, with first oil planned for the second half of 2005, will be maintained and the anticipated job numbers will be reached within a couple of months."

The minister also noted that government will continue to monitor the benefits commitments made by the White Rose proponents to ensure the people of this province receive the maximum benefit from the development of their resources.

Minister pleased FANL has returned to collective bargaining process

The Fisheries Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (FANL) met on Monday, February 24 and decided to re-engage with FFAW/CAW in Final Offer Selection bargaining for the 2003 season.

Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Yvonne Jones stated that "The province is pleased to see that FANL will be returning to the Final Offer Selection bargaining process for the 2003 season.

The province is committed to continue working in close cooperation with both FANL and FFAW/CAW to ensure continued stability in the industry."

"FANL's return to the process will help to ensure the timely settlement of prices and other issues of importance to the industry," said the minister. "The use of this model since 1998 has resulted in a period of unprecedented labour peace and stability in the fishing industry,

and I am confident that our industry will benefit from FANL returning to collective bargaining."

Town of Badger State of Emergency

If you are looking for information on developments in the Town of Badger or wish to lend support and encouragement to the people of the community please visit the government web site at www.gov.nf.ca/Badger

