

JUNE 6, 2003

Noteworthy



Offshore industry remains vibrant

Mines and Energy Minister Walter Noel said recent offshore drilling results in the Flemish Pass are disappointing, but should not be exaggerated. "Exploration and development will continue," he says.

June 4, Petro-Canada and partners Encana and Norsk Hydro announced they were abandoning their Tuckamore prospect in the Flemish Pass Basin. This follows the abandonment of the Mizzen prospect in April, in the same area.

Our offshore has tremendous oil and gas wealth. But it will not be identified and developed without patience, investment and exploration," said Minister Noel. "The normal success rate for finding hydrocarbons in commercial quantities is about one in every 10 exploration wells drilled. Our offshore is very large. Finding oil and gas requires a lot of scientific and seismic research. Experiences here are no different from the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea or other such offshore jurisdictions. Petro-Canada and their partners will use the results of this year's drilling program to gain more knowledge about the geological properties of the area, and use the information to determine future drilling plans.

"Our offshore resources have great potential, and are currently producing significant economic benefits for our people."

"Government is doing everything reasonable to promote exploration and development, streamline our regulatory system, and keep our industry competitive. We realize there are a lot of resources in the world, and a lot of competition for investment. We are doing what is necessary to make sure our industry continues growing."

Minister welcomes Trucking Safety Award

George Sweeney, Minister of Government Services and Lands, is delighted with the recognition government has received for provincial trucking safety measures it has implemented in the province over the past several years.

June 2, Canadians for Responsible and Safe Highways (CRASH) presented David Norman, Registrar of Motor Vehicles, with an award recognizing this province for scoring the highest in a Report Card on Trucking Safety. The document was compiled using trucking safety, inspection, accident, and injury data compiled over the past five years by Transport Canada.

"To receive the highest grade in the country is exemplary. To view this report card and see that Newfoundland and Labrador scored higher than Nova Scotia which placed first in the last report and substantially better than all other provinces in the country is a testament of our commitment to public safety," added Minister Sweeney.

Provincial Sustainable Forestry Management Strategy document released

Minister of Forest Resources and Agrifoods, Rick Woodford released a new Provincial Sustainable Forestry Management Strategy document for a 60-day public consultation process.

Minister Woodford said the 20-year provincial strategy sets out a new vision and direction for managing our forest resources into the future and will allow the department to build on the significant progress made in sustainable forest management in the province since the previous plan was developed in 1996.

The strategy identifies four strategic directions: ecologically-based forest management, economic considerations, social considerations, and Labrador, all of which will form the basis of achieving sustainable forest management in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Minister Woodford said the ecological, economic and social strategic directions have been structured for consistency with the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' Six Criteria of Sustainable Forest Management. The fourth strategic direction, Labrador, will address forestry development issues specific to the region, including building upon the relationships developed to date with the Innu Nation and Labrador Metis Nation.

Minister Woodford said the new Provincial Sustainable Forestry Management Strategy is still a draft document and he is looking forward to receiving input from the public during the 60-day consultation process. "We are seeking reaction from Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and any input from the public will be considered before the strategy is finalized."

