



Noteworthy



Minister attends industry conference; visits Inco facilities

Mines and Energy Minister Walter Noel was in Toronto recently to attend the 2003 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference. Prospectors and mining companies from across Canada were present at the conference providing an excellent opportunity to discuss important issues facing the industry.

"This reception brought together key industry players who have an interest in the Newfoundland and Labrador mining sector. My goal was to deliver the message to all delegates that Newfoundland and Labrador is a great place to do business and a great supporter of the mining industry," said Minister Noel.

Meetings were also scheduled with Inco officials to discuss the progression of the Voisey's Bay project at which time Minister Noel had the opportunity to tour Inco's research and development facilities at Sheridan Park in Mississauga, Ontario.

"Inco's test facilities are truly impressive," said Minister Noel. "I had the opportunity to examine the mini-pilot plant modules, a smaller version of those that will be used at the demonstration facility to be constructed at Argentia, and speak to the scientists and engineers involved in the process. This current process will aid in the development of the research and development program to begin operations in 2006."

Sheridan Park will be home to the mini-pilot plant which will be utilized to test Voisey's Bay concentrate using the hydromet process. This is a critical step in the design and construction of the demonstration plant at Argentia.

"Inco officials have assured me that the Argentia project is on schedule and their work plan is where they estimated it to be at this point. Officials also indicated that between \$100-120 million will be spent in Newfoundland and Labrador during the 2003-04 work season and employment will peak at between 500-600 people." ❏

New unit to enhance forestry and wildlife protection

Forest Resources and Agrifoods Minister Rick Woodford has announced the establishment of a Special Investigations Unit for the department, which the minister said will enhance the department's efforts in protecting our valuable wildlife and forest resources.

"This position will play an integral role in the development of policy recommendations for special investigations programs and provide expertise for the development of new laws, regulations, policies, procedures and standards," said Minister Woodford.

"The protection of our forest and wildlife resources remains a priority for government. The creation of this new unit will enhance our ability to deal with those who willfully abuse our natural resources. I am confident that the chief of special investigations will be an asset to the special investigations unit and will complement the dedicated effort already being demonstrated by our existing conservation officers throughout the province."

The new unit also has provincial responsibilities for co-ordinating, implementing and developing memoranda of understanding for joint operations with other enforcement agencies, such as the RCMP, RNC, Canadian Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans, federal parks and natural resource agencies from other provinces. ❏

Minister addresses future of 5 Wing Goose Bay

Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Tom Lush held a series of meetings in Happy Valley-Goose Bay recently to discuss future activities at 5 Wing Goose Bay.

The minister met with Base Commander Colonel Glynne Hines, Happy Valley-Goose Bay Mayor John Hickey and his officials, and Labrador North Chamber of Commerce president Dave Hunt. During his meetings with Colonel Hines, issues concerning the base were discussed, particularly marketing of the facility to current and new allied militaries.

With regard to marketing initiatives, Minister Lush said, "I am pleased to see that the federal government has agreed to increased provincial government involvement in the marketing of 5 Wing Goose Bay through the establishment of a senior, deputy minister level coordinating committee. I am also pleased that the Department of National Defence has appointed marketing specialist Lt. Col. Brian Houlgate to work with the new group to initiate marketing strategies for the base."

In addition the minister noted that the first priority of the federal/provincial discussions will be to develop an approach for the upcoming MOU negotiations and begin immediately on marketing initiatives that will ensure the future of flight training opportunities at 5 Wing Goose Bay. The minister also noted that the province is committed to 5 Wing Goose Bay and will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure its future viability. ❏

