

Noteworthy



Minister releases

Beyond High School report

Anna Thistle, Minister of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education, released *Beyond High School: A Follow-Up Study of June 2001 High School Graduates*. The report highlights the activities of the high school graduates of 2001, one year following their graduation.

“Information contained in *Beyond High School* is key to providing students, parents, policy makers and program administrators with insight into the decisions graduates make after completing high school,” said Minister Thistle.

This document is the second in a series of research initiatives undertaken by the department. The first document entitled *Career Search* was released in November 2002.

The report revealed that seventy-one per cent of respondents were engaged in post-secondary studies at the time of survey, compared to 65 per cent in 1995. There was also a shift in the post-secondary institutions students chose. Forty per cent of 2001 graduates attended Memorial University, up from 37 per cent in 1996; 17 per cent attended College of the North Atlantic, up from 12 per cent in 1996.

“The trend towards higher levels of post-secondary education by the youth of this province is encouraging.” Minister Thistle added that her department is also engaged in the creation of a career development framework to address the needs of youth. This framework will enhance the linkage and coordination of career development services and resources as well as identify best practices. ❏

Presentation to Standing Committee regarding environmental issues

On May 7, 2003, Environment Minister Bob Mercer appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans to express his concerns about the risk that oil pollution poses to our coast and coastal waters.

He said that the position of this government is that the federal government needs to take action. Minister Mercer stated that prevention of oil entering the sea is the key. Additionally Minister Mercer added that he is not comfortable with the federal government’s state of preparedness to respond to a major spill off the coast of this province.

He urged the federal government to hear the province’s concerns and take action. ❏

Minister comments on Fishery

Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Yvonne Jones stated that “The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is concerned with the inconsistency of the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in dealing with New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. Minister Thibault has reacted to the protest in New Brunswick by stating that the federal government is willing to increase the harvest of snow crab in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence by 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes and is prepared to entertain negotiations with New Brunswick fishers.”

On May 2, 2003, Thibault announced a three year snow crab management plan for the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The total allowable catch, entailed a reduction from 2002 of approximately 5,000 tonnes. On the weekend of May 3-4, 250 people allegedly set fire to a fish plant, warehouse and four federal vessels in Shippagan. The 20 percent quota cut and the reallocation to be shared among lobster fishers may have contributed to the violence. It has been reported that traditional crab fishers will refuse to start fishing, bringing to a standstill an industry worth in excess of \$100 million.

“The federal minister has refused to engage with our province to reassess the closure of the cod fishery,” said Minister Jones. “Industry and government have been working hard to get the minister back to the table, yet we have been told by the federal government that they will not reopen the fishery.” ❏

Newfoundland and Labrador delegation at the 2003 Offshore Technology Conference

Mines and Energy Minister Walter Noel led a Newfoundland and Labrador delegation to the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) 2003 in Houston, Texas from May 5 to 8. The delegation included representatives from 47 oil and gas industry organizations.

OTC is North America’s premier offshore technology conference which attracts government, business, and industry leaders from all over the world.

Minister Noel said, “We must seize every opportunity to promote our oil and gas resources and to encourage new exploration from national and international investors.” ❏

