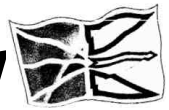


JANUARY 11, 2002

Noteworthy



Review of *Social Assistance Act* under way

Gerald Smith, Minister of Human Resources and Employment, announced the beginning of a review process which will help in updating the department's Social Assistance Act and Regulations. This is the first review of the legislation in its entirety since 1977.

"Our legislation needs to reflect and support the two key areas of the department: provision of social assistance in a stable and dignified manner to eligible individuals and families; and delivery of programs and services that support individuals to achieve their employment and career goals," said Minister Smith.

To support the review process, a discussion paper entitled *Investing in People: New Directions for Social Assistance Legislation* is being released. The paper provides information on the current income support and employment and career programs and poses a number of questions for discussion. The public's input based on this paper will assist the department when drafting the new legislation.

"I believe it is important that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have a say in how we develop programs and supports," said Minister Smith. "This review process provides the opportunity for all people in the province, in particular the clients of this department, to voice their opinions and concerns which will guide the development of the new legislation."

The department will also consult with key stakeholders using a variety of methods such as a general mail-out of the discussion paper to a range of community agencies, and opportunities to consult with a representative sample of community agencies at the regional level. Clients will receive a notice about the review and discussion paper along with information on how to provide feedback in this month's social assistance cheque mailing. The discussion paper will be available to the public at all Human Resources and Employment District Offices as well as on the department's web site at www.gov.nf.ca/hre.

Increase in recovery rate for beverage containers

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians recycled over 18 million more beverage containers in 2001. According to figures released by the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB), the recovery rate for beverage containers increased almost 10 per cent in 2001, as compared to 2000. From January to December, 103,687,221 beverage containers were recycled in the province, compared to 85,374,037 during the same 12-month period in 2000. At the end of this past year, the recovery rate was approximately 60 per cent.

"In order to maintain this momentum, MMSB will continue to provide recycling information and launch new recycling programs to assist residents, businesses, schools, fund-raising groups, and Green Depots in their recycling efforts for beverage containers," said Gordon Seabright, MMSB chairman.

The province's beverage container recycling program is administered by MMSB, a Crown agency established by the Department of Environment to develop, implement and, where appropriate, manage a variety of waste diversion programs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Companies invited to explore market opportunities in New York City

Team Canada Atlantic has selected New York City as its next trade mission destination in May 2002. In order to help Newfoundland and Labrador companies interested in increasing their exports to the Big Apple, officers from the Canadian Consulate General in New York City will be at the Fairmont Newfoundland Hotel on January 21 to discuss prospects for Newfoundland and Labrador companies.

Many Newfoundland and Labrador companies have already established trade relationships within the New York market and this trade mission will give more companies a chance to explore this market.

"Newfoundland and Labrador exported over \$2.8 billion in goods and services to the United States in 2000. Our exports to New York alone totalled over \$43 million, a significant portion of our United States exports," said Premier Roger Grimes. "We made a commitment in our Jobs and Growth strategy to develop our trade and export initiatives. Newfoundland and Labrador's participation in this Team Canada Atlantic mission is just another example of how we are doing that."

All export-ready businesses interested in exploring this major market are welcome to attend. Interested businesses are asked to contact Jonathan Brockway at (709) 729-5680 by January 17, 2002.

