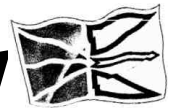


# Noteworthy




## Business, labour and government form a strategic partnership

The provincial government, business and labour have launched a strategic partnership initiative to foster a new collaborative, consensus-building approach to advancing the socio-economic interests of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The initiative was announced on January 17 by Premier Roger Grimes and representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour; the St. John's Board of Trade; Department of Industry, Trade and Rural Development; Department of Labour; the Newfoundland and Labrador Employers' Council; and the Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Commerce.

"This partnership will be an important part of advancing our overall economic agenda as set out in the Renewal Strategy for Jobs and Growth. In partnership with business and labour, we are acting on our Jobs and Growth commitment to develop new models of economic co-operation and collaboration," said Premier Grimes.


The strategic partnership initiative will take the concept of collaboration among business, labour and government to a new level by providing a forum for building consensus on the major issues affecting the economy of the province as a whole.

The core of this new initiative will be a Strategic Partnership Forum, a semi-annual meeting that will be chaired by the Premier. Dr. Phil Warren, Chair of the Premier's Council on Social Development, will represent community interests at the table and ensure that appropriate linkages are made between economic and social development. The Advisory Council on the Economy and Technology and the Youth Advisory Council will also participate. The forum will be designed to improve communication among major players in the economy. It will serve as a vehicle for sharing and developing common perspectives on the performance of the economy and for identifying key areas where business, labour and government need to work together to address specific challenges in the economy. 

## First oil at TERRA NOVA

Premier Roger Grimes expressed his best wishes to the proponents of the Terra Nova project, led by Petro-Canada, on their announcement of first oil at the Terra Nova field. The proponents announced that first oil is now on board the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel. This announcement marks the province's second producing oil field. The Hibernia field began production in 1997.

"I am very pleased that the Terra Nova proponents have reached first oil. This is a very positive step in this province's maturation as a developing petroleum producer in the global marketplace," said Premier Grimes. "Terra Nova is continuing the momentum that the Newfoundland and Labrador petroleum industry has been experiencing over the past number of years. This will also make the province an even more attractive destination for potential investors."

The Terra Nova field was discovered in 1984 and was given project sanction in 1998. Estimated resources include approximately 400 million barrels of reserves with a life expectancy of approximately 15 years. The Terra Nova field is located on the Grand Banks approximately 350 kilometres southeast of St. John's. 

## Committee announces provincial tour of Strategic Social Plan regions

The Social Policy Committee of Cabinet is planning working visits over the next several weeks to all six regions of the Strategic Social Plan (SSP).

The social policy ministers will meet members of the SSP regional steering committees, hear about their priorities, and learn about the kinds of work they are doing to implement the SSP. Ministers will also visit sites in the regions that provide innovative social programs and exemplify the goals and values of the Strategic Social Plan.

"We're looking forward to open, informative discussions with members of the steering committees. They have a wide range of expertise and know the issues in their regions very well," said Minister Judy Foote, chair of the Social Policy Committee.

The Strategic Social Plan was launched in 1998 as a way to improve long term opportunities for people, and better coordinate delivery of local services. Committees work to implement the SSP in their regions through planning and consulting with partner agencies and the community, and fostering partnerships. 