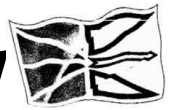


MARCH 8 2002

Noteworthy




Gateway Labrador receives funding

Gateway Labrador Inc. will receive \$710,826 to assist in the completion of a new interpretation centre. The announcement was made by Ernest McLean, Minister for Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs, on behalf of Beaton Tulk, Minister of Industry, Trade, and Rural Development, Gerry Byrne, Minister of State for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and Lawrence O'Brien, MP for Labrador. The funds will be provided under the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement.

"This new complex builds on the strengths of the area's tourism product, which generates growth in the region's economy," said Minister McLean. "Tourism is one of our fastest growing industries, and has been identified in our Renewal Strategy for Jobs and Growth as a priority sector for economic development. With the province's tourism marketing focused on Labrador for 2002, this is an obvious opportunity to further the tourism potential of the Labrador West gateway."


"With the steady increase in tourism traffic to this province, we must take every opportunity to develop the facilities and attractions that will ensure our guests have a positive experience," said Minister Byrne. "We expect that this year's Access North campaign will greatly increase awareness of Labrador as an attractive destination. These kinds of initiatives are important steps in improving the economies of all areas of Newfoundland and Labrador."

The new Gateway Complex will provide tourist information and house an interpretation centre which will introduce visitors to the rich cultural history of Labrador, with a particular emphasis on Labrador West. The centre will be located at the Trans-Labrador Highway entrance into Labrador, located in Labrador West. Construction of the complex will commence early in the spring. Once completed, it is estimated the facility will create four to six new jobs. 

House of Assembly resumes sitting

The House of Assembly will resume sitting on March 11. The current session of the legislature will prorogue on March 14. On Tuesday, March 19, at 2:00 p.m., His Honour Lieutenant-Governor Dr. A.M. House will open the Fourth Session of the 44th General Assembly of the legislature with the reading of the Speech from the Throne.

The provincial budget for 2002-2003 will be brought down in the House of Assembly on Thursday, March 21 at 2:00 p.m.

"The Throne Speech and budget will set out government's strategy for the coming session," said Minister Lush. "Government has completed an aggressive agenda over the last year in which we set ambitious goals and followed through on our promises to the people of this province. We look forward to the upcoming session to advance further initiatives through government's work plan of action." 

Government to fund Public Education and Outreach Hub

Mines and Energy Minister Lloyd Matthews and Environment Minister Ralph Wiseman announced government is providing \$40,000 to the Conservation Corps of Newfoundland and Labrador for the Public Education and Outreach (PEO) hub on climate change, to be located in St. John's. The federal government will match the provincial sum, and the private sector is also expected to contribute additional resources.

The PEO climate change information hub is an 18-month pilot project funded by both the province and the Government of Canada. The purpose of the pilot project is to increase climate change awareness and encourage action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative will bring together partners from government, business, environmental and health organizations, educational institutions, community groups and individuals.

"Climate change is a topic that is receiving global attention," said Minister Matthews. "As a province, we must work together to educate and change attitudes on this important subject. It is only by doing this that we can help prevent the potential dangers associated with global warming."

"This Public Education and Outreach hub will provide the necessary information for people to make informed and responsible decisions about the environment and will educate people on the long-term effects of climate change on the environment," said Minister Wiseman. "By changing the way we think, we can help mitigate the effects of climate change." 