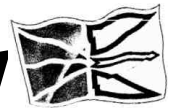


Noteworthy



Major economic announcements

Newfoundland and Labrador's economy received a boost recently with three major announcements.

The final decision in the Newfoundland and Labrador/Nova Scotia offshore boundary dispute was presented by the arbitration tribunal, and Newfoundland and Labrador was provided with approximately 70 per cent of the area that was in dispute between the two provinces.

Mines and Energy Minister Lloyd Matthews said that an end to the offshore boundary dispute is good news for both provinces. "The tribunal's decision provides both provinces and industry with jurisdictional certainty. We can now move forward with the business of opening this area up to advanced exploration activity which will provide substantial benefits to both provinces and lead, we hope, to discoveries on both sides of the boundary."

"The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is extremely pleased with the line established by the tribunal," said Premier Grimes. "By any measure, the tribunal's decision represents a significant decision for this province."

The province also witnessed the sanctioning of the White Rose Project and the promise of a secure and prosperous future for the Marystown shipyard. Peter Kiewit Sons (PKS), headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, one of North America's largest construction and fabrication firms, purchased the Marystown facilities from Freide Goldman Newfoundland. PKS is also a partner with Aker Maritime Kiewit Contractors, which was awarded the topsides fabrication contract for the White Rose project concurrent with the announcement by Husky Oil and Petro Canada, now that White Rose has been formally sanctioned. The Marystown facilities will play a major role in the White Rose project. ☞

CABINET changes

Premier Roger Grimes announced changes in several Cabinet portfolios on April 4. The ministers were sworn in at a ceremony at Government House by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, Dr. A. M. House.

Julie Bettney, former Minister of Health and Community Services, has assumed responsibility for the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

Kevin Aylward, former Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, has assumed responsibility for the Department of Environment.

Ralph Wiseman, former Minister of Environment, has assumed responsibility for the Department of Human Resources and Employment.

Gerald Smith, former Minister of Human Resources and Employment and Minister responsible for the Strategic Social Plan, has assumed responsibility for the Department of Health and Community Services. He will also maintain responsibility for the Strategic Social Plan.

Premier Grimes also announced that Kelvin Parsons, in addition to his role as Minister of Justice and Attorney General, will be acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Rural Development. ☞

Minister announces changes to student aid program

Sandra C. Kelly, Minister of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education, announced changes to the student aid program aimed at reducing student debt and making post-secondary education more affordable.

"Post-secondary students have been asking for help in minimizing debt and repaying their student loans," said Minister Kelly. "These new initiatives will assist many students in Newfoundland and Labrador, particularly those who require a high level of financial aid."

The changes to the student aid program will become effective

on August 1, 2002, and include the following: new debt reduction grants; enhanced interest relief; increased loans for Memorial University medical students; grants for Early Childhood Education students; a new Institutional Designation Policy; improved communication and counseling; and new eligibility requirements with special consideration of extenuating circumstances.

Details on the changes to the Student Financial Assistance Program are available on the following Web site:
<http://www.edu.gov.nf.ca/studentaid/> ☞

