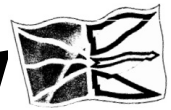


# Noteworthy



## Forum seeks solutions to the problem of bullying

"The challenge before us today is two-fold," said Education Minister Judy Foote, when she addressed delegates at the opening of *Creating Peaceful Schools - A Forum on School Bullying*, held in St. John's. "First, we must consider the responsibility we have in nurturing an environment of peace in our schools, and, second, we must deal appropriately with those who are engaged in bullying. We must be diligent in encouraging practices that support open, safe, caring, inclusive, peaceful and healthy learning environments."

The forum brought together 120 representatives from school boards, the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, the Federation of School Councils, other government departments and the Safe and Caring Schools Advisory Committee, which included representation from the police forces. Educational psychologists, guidance counselors, teachers and students were also in attendance.

Forum participants looked at interventions currently in place to deal with bullying and investigated other effective and innovative ways to stop those who bully and discourage these acts of violence. This forum signaled a start to development of a shared action plan, to be implemented as soon as possible. Minister Foote resolved to look at the issue of bullying in the province's schools in response to concerns expressed to her by some parents. In addition, there have been some recent and frightening events in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, which have precipitated the decision to facilitate this forum.

"Government is committed to providing quality education for our students, and this is demonstrated, for example, by our investment in new schools and support of professional development for teachers," said Minister Foote. "However, we also have a responsibility to ensure that the school community is an environment built on a premise of respect for all, where hostility and threats are non-existent. Cultivating an atmosphere of respect and tolerance in our schools will promote a culture of peace in our society." ❧

## Temporary drop-off sites identified for used tire recycling program

In support of the tire recycling program, Environment Minister Kevin Aylward announced temporary drop-off sites for used tires. Government said it will continue with the tire recycling program and will work with the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board (MMSB) to re-evaluate the requirements for temporary storage and transportation of used tires. The announcement follows the recent withdrawal of the company which was awarded the contract for collection, transportation and processing of used tires.

"I am pleased to have the cooperation of my colleague, Percy Barrett, Minister of Works, Services and Transportation (WST), to allow for temporary storage of tires at selected provincial Works, Services and Transportation depots throughout the province. There are approximately 50 used tire drop-off locations in Newfoundland and Labrador, including the existing municipal waste disposal sites that are already storing used tires," said Minister Aylward.

The minister continued: "A large number of specific WST depots will be available for tire drop-off during regular business hours from Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Advertisements providing details on the drop-off sites have been placed in the province's newspapers, and signs have been posted at the Works, Services and Transportation depots participating in this program." ❧

## House of Assembly concludes spring session

The House of Assembly concluded its spring session on May 22. Government House Leader Tom Lush said he is pleased that government was able to deal with both Budget 2002 and other important pieces of legislation during the spring session of the House of Assembly.

Legislation passed during the session included the Main Supply Act (Budget), Environmental Protection Act, Water Resources

Act, Interim Supply Act and amendments to the Tobacco Tax Act and the Income Tax Act.

Minister Lush noted in particular the passing of two important pieces of legislation this session, addressing clear responsibilities for environmental protection and water resource management. ❧

