



Noteworthy

Voisey's Bay update

Mines and Energy Minister Lloyd Matthews provided an update on activities currently taking place on the Voisey's Bay project following his recent visit to the Voisey's Bay site. He said that he was pleased to have the opportunity to witness first hand the level of activity taking place at the Voisey's Bay site.

"A number of important agreements have already been finalized between the provincial government and the aboriginal groups including: the Innu Memorandum of Agreement concerning the Voisey's Bay project and the Inuit Interim Measures Agreement. Also, the Environmental Management Agreement (EMA) has been signed by the provincial government, the Labrador Inuit Association (LIA) and the Innu Nation, with the federal government expected to sign in the coming weeks."

The minister noted that an Environmental Management Board (EMB) has been established to provide advice to ministers on permit authorizations and environmental issues related to the Voisey's Bay mine and mill components of the project. The EMB has already met twice, approving all 20 permits that the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited (VBNC) have identified as a priority.

"To date, VBNC has awarded 12 contracts, valued at over \$30 million, for work at the Voisey's Bay site. All of these contracts are joint ventures with aboriginal companies and involve Newfoundland and Labrador companies," said Minister Matthews.

"There are currently 143 people working at the Voisey's Bay site. This number includes 125 residents of the province, of which 81 are Labradorians. VBNC and its contractors also employ approximately 50 people in other areas of the province, for a total of 193 employees."

The Rooms to date

Opening to the public in 2004, The Rooms will house the Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador, Provincial Archives, and the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador. The design concept for The Rooms pays tribute to the traditional lifestyle and unique language of the province. "Rooms" were those buildings on the shoreline where fish was processed and where nets and other fishing equipment were stored.

"We are building a world-class facility which will increase our ability to exhibit and store the invaluable artifacts, art and archival materials of this province," said Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation Julie Bettney.

The construction of the 150,000-square-foot building reflects tradition and available products in the province. The roof is a red metal that borrows from the surrounding buildings and is a traditional colour for roofs in Newfoundland and Labrador. Newfoundland red birch will be used for the flooring on many of the gallery spaces. Some 8,000 metres of concrete and 1,300 tons of reinforcing are being used enabling the structure to hold the province's extensive collection of artifacts and archives. The solid forms of the building are wheat-coloured masonry units which reflect the colour of fields in summer. The interior is made of Newfoundland and Labrador granite and glass, concrete and steel.

Local delegation participating in Offshore Northern Seas 2002

Next week, 23 delegates representing 13 local companies and organizations will travel to Stavanger, Norway for Offshore Northern Seas 2002, an international petroleum conference and exhibition that is expected to attract 30,000 participants from all over the world.

Offshore Northern Seas is held every two years and alternates with Offshore Europe, which is held in Scotland. This year, the event runs from August 27-30 under the theme "Energizing a New Generation." Offshore Northern Seas is considered one of the world's leading conferences and exhibitions for the global oil and gas industry. It has become an important forum for the international offshore industry and key to an expanding market for petroleum-related technology and services.

Industry, Trade and Rural Development Minister Kelvin Parsons and Mines and Energy Minister Lloyd Matthews will join the Newfoundland and Labrador companies and organizations at Offshore Northern Seas. The local delegation consists of: A. Harvey & Company Ltd. (St. John's); Atlantic Business Magazine (St. John's); Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency; Bull Arm Site Corporation; Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board; C-CORE (St. John's); City of St. John's: Economic Development and Tourism; ConPro Group Limited (St. John's); Memorial University of Newfoundland; Newfoundland Ocean Industries Association; Publishing World Inc. Atlantic Oil Works (St. John's); Robinson Blackmore Printing and Publishing (St. John's); and the Town of Paradise.

