



Noteworthy

Government launches CDLI

Premier Roger Grimes and Education Minister Judy Foote recently launched one of the most progressive initiatives ever established in the education system in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Centre for Distance Learning and Innovation (CDLI) will assist the province's K-12 schools capitalize on the tremendous advances in information and communications technologies.

"CDLI will allow us to greatly expand our distance education programs in small schools and give many more students an opportunity to access a broader range of course options," said Premier Grimes. "We are able to take advantage of new technologies to provide the same quality programs and services to all our students, no matter where they live."

CDLI uses a web-based approach to deliver a new form of distance education called e-learning. This model of distance learning involves a teacher and a group of students who are free from the limitations of geography and schedules, brought together by telecommunications systems and computer networks. The technology permits students from any number of schools in different districts to enroll together in a given course.

"I am very excited about the opportunities CDLI provides for our students and our teachers," said Minister Foote. "Through this e-teaching model, students in the smallest schools are being taught by some of the most qualified teachers in the province."

Minister Foote also noted CDLI courses have the potential to be taught to students who are in hospital or house-bound to ensure they are able to keep up with their school work. There is also flexibility for adult learners to complete courses towards their high school certification, to improve literacy skills through adult basic education programs, and for the professional development of the province's teachers.

Minister Foote also announced that the Department of Education has reached an agreement with Aliant Telecom to provide an e-learning network that will connect schools and provide bandwidth speeds up to 20 times the current levels. ❧

Premier on Kyoto

"Newfoundland and Labrador has always supported and will continue to support measures that will address climate change. However, we believe that the federal government is unnecessarily rushing the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol through a flawed process that does not involve meaningful consultations with the provinces and territories, nor does it address the economic concerns of many jurisdictions.

"The provincial/territorial principles would ensure that all Canadians have an opportunity for input, and that federal, provincial and territorial governments work together to achieve a realistic plan. Should Ottawa continue to use December 31 as an arbitrary date for ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, a date that has no significance in enabling the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force, we cannot support ratification.

"We have asked the federal government to once again include the provinces and territories in a process of developing a national plan and convene a First Ministers meeting on climate change. Newfoundland and Labrador remains extremely concerned about the negative impacts that the Kyoto Protocol may have on this province's economy and any future investment potential in our province." ❧

New Lieutenant Governor sworn-in

Mr. Edward Roberts, QC, was sworn-in as Newfoundland and Labrador's 11th Lieutenant Governor at a ceremony in the House of Assembly on November 1. Mr. Roberts assumed the role as the Queen's representative from Dr. A.M. House.

"If the role of Lieutenant Governor is to promote the people, culture, heritage and the democratic principles of this province, then the past experience of Edward Roberts makes him a worthy recipient of this office," said Premier Roger Grimes.

Mr. Roberts served as a Member of the House of Assembly for White Bay North for six consecutive terms. He was Minister of Public Welfare, Minister of Health, and Leader of the Opposition. He retired from politics in 1985, and then returned to serve once again from 1992-1996.

Mr. Roberts was named a Queen's Counsel in 1979, appointed Master of the Supreme Court in 1989, and was Chair of the Board of Regents for Memorial University of Newfoundland. ❧

