



Noteworthy

Health Care facts

NURSES:

• Since the spring of 1999, the Province has invested almost \$14 million in nursing and support staff. That includes \$7.5 million to create 125 new permanent nursing positions, \$2.3 million to convert 540 casual nursing positions to permanent status, and \$4 million for additional support staff.

BUDGET:

• The Province will spend \$90 million for hospital facilities in St. John's, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Gander, Harbour Breton, Stephenville, Old Perlican, Fogo, Bonne Bay, Grand Bank and Grand Falls-Windsor.

FINANCIAL/ PER CAPITA EXPENDITURES:

• The Province spends \$1.2 billion on health and community services, the highest expenditure in government or one-third of all government expenditures.

• The Province spent almost \$90 per person above the Canadian average on health care in 1998, second among the provinces for public health care spending.

ACCREDITATION:

• All of our health facilities are fully accredited by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. ☞

PROTECTED AREAS ASSOCIATION praises government's newest reserves

Government's creation of reserves in the Little Grand Lake area of Western Newfoundland is earning praise from the province's Protected Areas Association.

Executive Director Laura Jackson congratulated Cabinet and the provincial government for the quality of their "cooperation, consulting and listening" on the issue.

Jackson welcomed the fact that the ecological reserve will permanently protect portions of the three natural regions that meet in this unique area, including enough core forest habitat to support an effective population of the endangered Newfoundland pine marten.

Jackson said the ecological reserve is a significant contribution to government's 1991 commitment to protect an example of each of the province's 35 natural regions.

The ecological reserve announcement has also earned praise from the World Wildlife Fund, which described the new protected area as one of national ecological importance. WWF described the multi-stakeholder effort as "a model for the governments of other provinces and territories to follow as they also work to complete their protected areas networks." ☞

What people are SAYING about JOBS and GROWTH:

"...and that's what this consultation process is about, getting all cylinders in the Newfoundland engine that drives the economy firing together in sequence and in partnership."
Premier Brian Tobin

"There are a lot of great ideas out there that really haven't been seen yet and it's from these general consultations and the people coming to the table that one idea could be something that really sparks us and increases our future here in Newfoundland and Labrador."
Shawn Woodford,
Newfoundland and Labrador Chamber of Commerce

"Government should work closely with and give guidance to entrepreneurs with dynamic ideas and concepts for this [fishing] industry."
Gary Troake, Fisherman

"Why would a young entrepreneur start a business anywhere if the skilled workers they require are not available? We believe that if we can have the best educated and high skilled workforce in Canada, the jobs will come."
Gloria Butt, Botwood Mayor

"We cannot know how we have arrived in the present and chart a course for the future if our children believe that the history of Newfoundland begins with them... our history is our future. Of course, I'm talking about tourism."
Audrey Manning, Barbour Living Heritage Site

For more information about the province's Jobs and Growth consultation, call toll free 1-877-729-6440.

Lakeside Academy in Buchans one of most modern schools in the province

Premier Brian Tobin officially opened Lakeside Academy in Buchans earlier this month. The first of 19 major school construction projects currently underway in the province, it comprises part of the government's \$125 million investment in new school facilities throughout the province.

It is a state of the art facility. The school's local area computer network facilitates the electronic transfer and sharing of information throughout classrooms, specialty areas, the resource centre, the general office and the staff room.

In addition, it is one of the first schools in the province to be equipped with a special suite designed to meet the instructional and personal care needs of students with physical and learning disabilities. ☞

