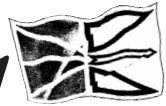


MARCH 17, 2000

Noteworthy



FUNDING SUPPORTS

Small business development

Community Business Development Corporations (CBDC) will receive \$10 million through the federal/ provincial economic development component of the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Initiative to support the development of small- and medium-size enterprises in communities affected by the downturn in the groundfish industry in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Development and Rural Renewal Minister Beaton Tulk said that the regional economic development boards and others have been calling for greater community-based access to small business capital. That call was repeated during government's public consultations on Jobs and Growth.

"By providing access to risk capital not otherwise available for business establishment and expansion in regions hardest hit by the downturn in the groundfishery, we are responding to that call," said Minister Tulk. "This will better enable individuals to seek out and create new sources of employment."

The CBDC provides loans, loan guarantees or equity capital up to \$125,000 to qualifying clients. It also provides technical assistance to small businesses in the form of business counselling, advice and information. ☞

PROVINCE Provides Funding to PREVENT VIOLENCE

The provincial government announced this week that it will provide \$2.25 million over the next five years towards a new violence prevention initiative. Coordinated by the Women's Policy Office, this initiative will dedicate resources to prevention of violence through improving services to victims, public education and changes to government policy.

The initiative, which has grown out of the Provincial Strategy Against Violence, represents the government's commitment to continue the valuable work that began under the five-year Provincial Strategy Against Violence. This strategy included improving direct services to victims, educational campaigns for the general public and schools, producing publications, and legislative and policy changes.

The new violence prevention initiative is based on consultations with regional coordinating committees, government departments and agencies. Seventy per cent of the allocated funds will be directed to the regions and these coordination committees will work together to determine priorities for their areas. ☞

Labour Market Development Council Announced

Human Resources and Employment Minister Julie Bettney said the new Labour Market Development Council, announced in Tuesday's Speech from the Throne, comes out of the recent Jobs and Growth consultations.

Bettney, minister responsible for the Strategic Social Plan, said the formation of the council responds to stakeholders' suggestions that ensuring a strong future economy means preparing young people now

to take advantage of the future labour market. The council will include representatives from government, industry, labour and post-secondary institutions. Members will recommend ways that public and post-secondary institutions can equip young people with skills necessary to find work in the rapidly changing global economy.

The council will report to government through an ad hoc committee of ministers, chaired by Bettney. ☞

The 2000-2001 provincial budget will be brought down March 22 at 2 p.m.

