

MARCH 31, 2000

Noteworthy




Concept design for **The Rooms** unveiled

Premier Brian Tobin, Tourism, Culture and Recreation Minister Charles Furey, and Philip Pratt of the PHB Group, the company contracted to design The Rooms, this week unveiled the concept design for the new \$40-million facility. The Rooms will house the Newfoundland Museum, the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Provincial Archives.

“The Rooms embodies the cultural values of our society and will make an artistic as well as an architectural statement,” said Premier Tobin.

The Rooms will integrate the museum, archives and art gallery into one multi-purpose facility, while maintaining their individuality. The concept of The Rooms salutes 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.

The building will be a major addition to the skyline, without dominating it, and will fit in well with the other institutional and religious buildings in the neighbourhood. The design integrates the technical needs of the three institutions and the public uses to which the building will be put, resulting in a state-of-the-art facility which reflects our cultural values.

Archaeological work will begin this spring, with construction of the facility commencing in September 2000. The Rooms is scheduled to be open to the public by March 2003. 

What people are saying about **Budget 2000**

- “This is my 25th year at the Newfoundland budget, and from a small-business point of view, this one’s the best I’ve seen.”
Peter O’Brien, Canadian Federation of Independent Business
- “I think government has realized that we need jobs in Newfoundland and jobs come from business . . . it’s just a first-class budget. It’s a smart budget.”
Lorne Janes, Alliance of Manufacturers and Exporters
- “We’re particularly pleased that the government has responded to the needs of the northern coast of Labrador in relation to the infrastructure work that’s needed up there and support for the communities on the north coast.”
Derm Flynn, Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Municipalities
- “(The budget) goes to show that the government is keeping up with the commitment that it made to parents and to children with autism.”
Parent Carolyn Forsey regarding funding to help support autistic children
- “The \$54.3 million over the next three years in capital funding will go a long way to replacing or updating our aging equipment, as well as responding to new and increasing needs.”
Eileen Young, Newfoundland and Labrador Health and Community Services Association

More money for Graduate Recruitment Program

Fifteen new graduates will be recruited annually to the public service thanks to an increase in funding for the Graduate Recruitment Program announced in the March 22 provincial budget.

The program began in 1999 with the recruitment of five post-secondary graduates and will be an ongoing initiative of government. Graduates will be hired into entry-level, unclassified, non-bargaining positions and rotate through at least four work assignments over a two-year period. Following completion of the program, graduates will be eligible to apply for positions within the public service. 