



Noteworthy

SIGNING BONUS

for student nurses

Health and Community Services Minister Roger Grimes has announced that government is setting aside one-time funding of up to \$600,000 to offer a \$3,000 cash incentive to fourth-year student nurses who are graduating in the year 2000, and who commit to work in the province for at least one year.

This is in addition to bursary/incentive programs already in place for health professionals which total over \$1.5 million annually. One hundred and sixty student nurses are expected to graduate this spring in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Minister Grimes also announced that the Department of Health and Community Services will work with the Human Resource Sub-Committee on Nursing to map out a longer term Provincial Nursing Recruitment Program.

This recruitment program, which should be announced in the next couple of weeks, will likely involve early recruitment of student nurses combined with a monetary sign-on incentive tied to the number of years a nurse is willing to work in this province.

"One of the keys to stabilizing the health care system in this province rests with ensuring an adequate supply of human resources," said Minister Grimes. "Nurses are a very important component of that mix, and I am pleased to be able to offer a one-time incentive to students graduating from the province's schools of nursing this year, and from other schools outside the province. This is on top of almost \$14 million which government allotted in the past year for up to 640 nursing and nursing support positions."

PHYSICIAN numbers on the Rise

- The province's latest physician statistics show a net increase of 53 physicians in Newfoundland and Labrador as of mid-January 2000.
- There were 39 new specialists and 14 new general practitioners, some of whom are fee-for-service physicians and others who are salaried.

The following chart shows the breakdown.

	General Practitioner	Specialist	Total
Fee-for-Service Sept 98-99	-4	+8	+4
Salaried Apr 1/99-Jan 2000	+18	+31	+49
Total	+14	+39	+53

Public opinion sought in pre-budget consultation

The Department of Finance will again hold a pre-budget electronic town hall consultation on February 5, 2000 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Government wants to hear the budget priorities of individuals and groups throughout the province. Finance Minister Lloyd Matthews and President of Treasury Board Anna Thistle will host this electronic town hall session from facilities in St. John's.

Representatives at 17 locations across the province will participate in the video and audio conferencing. This technology has been made available through Memorial University's Telemedicine/TETRA facilities and will be broadcast live on the Internet, making the discussion accessible by any Newfoundlander or Labradorian with a connection to the Internet. To access the live webcast,

visit www.gov.nf.ca or www.ce.mun.ca/townhall.

Government encourages individuals and groups to participate in the consultation process up to March 15, 2000, by speaking to their Member of the House of Assembly or by providing comments through one of the following means:

Call toll-free 1-888-332-7442

Email to: makingchoices@mail.gov.nf.ca

Log on to the Internet at <http://www.gov.nf.ca/choices/>

Fax: (709) 729-2232

Or writing : MAKING CHOICES

c/o Minister of Finance,

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador,

P.O. Box 8700, St. John's, NF A1B 4J6

