



Noteworthy

LONG TERM POLICY

considers spouses

Health and Community Services Minister Roger Grimes has announced a change in the financial assessment policy for clients entering long-term care facilities in the province. The new policy ensures that spouses who remain at home will not suffer financially as a result of their spouse being placed in a home.

The \$750,000 investment is effective immediately and will assist approximately 150 people.

Previously, only a client's private income could be transferred to the spouse remaining at home. Now, some or all of the client's

total private income and federal maintenance income like old age security or Canada Pension can remain with the spouse at home if required, to ensure the spouse is able to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

"In the past, there have been isolated incidences where our policy resulted in spouses at home having to avail of social assistance as a result of losing the ability to use their husband's or wife's income after they entered a nursing home," explained Minister Grimes. "This should no longer occur." ❧

Strategic Social Plan implemented in western region

The Strategic Social Plan is being implemented in the area of the province encompassing Quirpon on the Northern Peninsula, the west coast to Port aux Basques and as far as Francois on the southwest coast.

On Feb. 17, Premier Brian Tobin and Julie Bettney, Minister Responsible for the Strategic Social Plan (SSP), joined with more than 50 community representatives in Corner Brook

who have partnered with government to announce this innovative approach to social development.

The western region is the second to initiate this process. The implementation of the SSP has been progressing in the central region for the last several months. Work continues to bring the SSP to the rest of Newfoundland and Labrador by early summer. ❧

BISHOP'S FALLS company gets *EDGE* status

The Department of Industry, Trade and Technology has given Hi-Point Industries Ltd. of Bishop's Falls Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises (EDGE) status for the horticultural peat production aspect of its operations.

- Hi-Point Industries Ltd. is the 67th EDGE company.
- During peak harvesting times Hi-Point Industries Ltd. employs more than 30 people.
- Approximately 1,500 jobs have been created since the inception of the EDGE program six years ago.
- As a result of the incentive program, \$73 million has been injected into the provincial economy.

Under the EDGE program, eligible firms get a 10-year tax break from the province's corporate income and payroll taxes, followed by a five-year phase-in of those taxes. Companies may also obtain unserviced Crown land for a nominal fee and get access to a facilitator who will help the company obtain start-up or expansion permits and licenses. ❧

