



Noteworthy

VIKING EXHIBIT officially opens

Governor General of Canada Adrienne Clarkson and Premier Brian Tobin officially opened the FULL CIRCLE: First Contact, Vikings and Skraelings in Newfoundland and Labrador exhibit at the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre on June 5th.

"The voyage of the Vikings and their arrival in Newfoundland 1,000 years ago is not only a significant milestone in human history but yet another chapter to the province's rich cultural heritage," said Premier Tobin. "This inspiring and educational exhibit goes beyond the Arts and Culture Centre stage offering a very rich program of events throughout the summer for families, children and adults."

FULL CIRCLE: First Contact is a travelling exhibit of the Newfoundland Museum and is presented under the patronage of UNESCO. Presented in English and French, the exhibit displays an array of 300 Nordic and Aboriginal artifacts, Viking legends and artistry. Visitors are guided through the exhibit with a self-directed, personalized audio unit and headset. International journalist and historian, Gwynne Dyer, narrates the contact story.

The exhibit will tour as follows:

- the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre, June 2 to August 6, 2000;
- the Corner Brook Museum and Archives, August 25 to October 9, 2000;
- museums throughout North America, November 2000 - October, 2003.

Tickets can be purchased at the St. John's Arts and Culture Centre Box Office or by calling 1-800-663-9449 or 729-3900. For additional information, visit the Full Circle web-site at www.gov.nf.ca/fullcircle/ or call Tourism Newfoundland and Labrador at 1-800-563-6653.

**Opening of province's
LARGEST call centre**

Premier Brian Tobin announced yesterday that Convergys Corporation will open a 575 seat high-end customer service call centre in St. John's, creating 1,000 new jobs in the province.

"Attracting this major customer service centre is a significant achievement for our province, which will create a large number of jobs and economic spinoffs," said Premier Tobin. "Clearly, Convergys Corporation recognized the benefits of operating a business in Newfoundland and Labrador: an excellent work force, a business friendly environment and a competitive business location."

Convergys' new operation will manage in-bound calls from Canada and the United States. The contact centre, which will be located in the former Kmart building on Torbay Road, is expected to open in September of this year. The provincial government will provide an incentive package based on a wage rebate on gross payroll.

Convergys Corporation is a U.S.-based company with more than 40,000 employees in 39 contact centres throughout North America and Europe and is the largest provider of billings and customer management services in the world.

Moving on up

St. John's ranked fourth out of 42 cities in Canada for hotel occupancy rates in 1999, according to The Telegram this week. This is a significant improvement from 20th place the year before.

The Pannell Kerr Foster survey analysis of hotel data showed St. John's had a 71.9 per cent occupancy rate for the city's eight major hotels and motels. That was better than both the

national rate of 66.1 per cent and the Atlantic Canada rate of 67.2 per cent. St. John's also led the country in year-over-year growth, with 10 per cent increased occupancy, while the national rate declined by 1.3 per cent.

The average daily room rate in the survey, not including taxes, was \$92.21 in St. John's. The average Canadian daily room rate was \$105.97.

