

JULY 7, 2000

Noteworthy


MOVING FORWARD WITH ***new cod grading system***

Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister John Efford emphasized the importance of a new quality grading program for the cod fishery at a news conference on July 4. He also emphasized its impact on the province's reputation as a producer of superior quality seafood products.

Minister Efford said the new agreement between the Fisheries Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (FANL) and the Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (FFAW) recognizes the efforts of harvesters who are doing things right in the area of quality and is an incentive for others to improve their practices. The minister encouraged all fish harvesters to participate in this new program.

"This is a great opportunity for Newfoundland and Labrador to prove that we can land superior quality fish for the world markets and an opportunity for harvesters to get a higher price for a top quality product," said Minister Efford.

The minister encouraged fishermen to use proper harvesting and handling practices during this season's cod fishery.


The new dockside grading initiative for cod is the result of the cooperative efforts of a joint industry/government working group. The group's mandate is to identify and implement measures to improve the quality of our commercial fisheries and to further promote the province as a world leader in the production of top quality seafood products. 

Additional tax reductions ***effective JULY 1***

Taxpayers in Newfoundland and Labrador should begin to see an increase in their take home pay as a result of income tax reductions which came into effect on July 1. In fact, in 2000, taxpayers in this province will see the largest tax savings in the country.

"Provincial tax reductions effective from July 1 will put an additional \$12 million of provincial money back into the hands of taxpayers this year," said Finance Minister Lloyd Matthews. "This is over and above the provincial tax reductions implemented on January 1 which saved taxpayers \$30 million annually." The minister said that the government of this province decided to allow the additional provincial tax reductions induced by the federal budget to flow into the hands of taxpayers this year.

The total combined tax savings for the 2000 tax year will be \$60 million with the province providing \$42 million, and the federal government providing \$18 million.

For a single earner with a taxable income of \$40,000, the combined tax reduction in 2000 is \$472 of which \$317 is provincial tax. A similar taxpayer earning \$60,000 in taxable income will see total annual savings of 1,016, of which \$637 is provincial tax. 

Pippy Park boundaries re-established

Municipal and Provincial Affairs Minister Joan Marie Aylward announced the approval of changes to the boundaries of Pippy Park in St. John's this week. These changes will see nine new properties included within the park and 10 other properties removed from park limits.

John Roil, Q.C., led the commission which heard comments on proposed changes. He conducted public hearings and filed a report with recommended changes which was reviewed and largely accepted by the Pippy Park Commission (PPC), the provincial government and the City of St. John's.

"I am happy these changes were developed with the input of so many interested parties," said Minister Aylward. "I commend Mr. Roil for his work and I thank area residents, the PPC and the City of St. John's for their valuable input which allowed this process to be completed."

The park's core function is preserving the natural environment, developing appropriate recreation facilities and providing a home for government and Memorial University. 