




Noteworthy

RESULTS OF RECLASSIFICATION announced

Anna Thistle, President of Treasury Board, and Roger Grimes, Minister of Health and Community Services announced the results of a reclassification review on August 30. The review looked at the nursing profession, licenced practical nurse (LPN) and social worker classifications, and selected classes represented by the Association of Allied Health Professionals (AAHP).

During the review, government found that significant change had taken place within the nursing occupation since the previous classifications were established, prompting the province to look at the foundation of classifications. "This was a comprehensive review by government," said Minister Thistle. "I am pleased to say the result is that nursing positions are being reclassified upward by two levels."


Effective immediately, the annual starting salary for a new nurse will climb from \$34,028 to \$36,680. An experienced nurse at the top of the scale, the level reached by the majority of the province's nurses, will see an annual raise from \$42,101 to \$45,650. LPNs and social workers have also been reclassified upwards two levels and the AAHP classes studied - social workers, occupational therapists, dieticians, physiotherapists, pharmacists and speech language pathologists - will be reclassified upward three levels. The total cost of the initiative is \$24 million.

Minister Grimes said he is confident in the results of the review. "This represents a significant investment by government into the province's health care system by supporting its front-line workers." A researcher has been assigned to lead government's study into social workers' concerns about work loads in conjunction with NAPE and social workers. Minister Thistle noted that the review of a new job classification system for bargaining unit employees has already commenced and will proceed on a priority basis. 

Summer Games — a success

The Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games held in Mount Pearl from August 19 - 26 were a success with many highlights during the week celebrating "Unity in Youth," this year's Games theme. Among the highlights were the introduction of six new sport categories, including Special Olympics, and the participation of a team from St. Pierre and Miquelon for the first time.

"This year's Summer Games were quite successful thanks to the enthusiasm of athletes and the dedication of volunteers," said Julie Bettney - MHA for Mount Pearl. "We would like to extend our congratulations to the host community, all participants and the many volunteers for making the Games a true show of spirit and friendship. We were also happy to extend the Games family to include the team from St. Pierre and Miquelon for the first time in Games history."

This year's Games attracted approximately 1,600 participants from across Newfoundland and Labrador and St. Pierre and Miquelon. To meet the needs of participants, 1,593 volunteers were responsible for food, accommodations, and numerous other services. 

Cancer Centre Western Region to open

The Minister of Health and Community Services will participate in the opening of the Cancer Centre Western Region on October 6. The Newfoundland Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation (NCTRF) and the Western Memorial Regional Hospital Foundation (WMRHF) partnered in a campaign to expand the existing Chemotherapy Unit in Corner Brook.

The campaign, "Rebuilding for Cancer Care in Western Newfoundland," was launched in November 1999. William Newton, Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the

Newfoundland Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, noted the importance of the centre at that time. "This new Cancer Centre will help the NCTRF fulfill its mandate to provide a comprehensive cancer control program for the people of Western Newfoundland."

The foundations committed to raise \$130,000 toward the \$500,000 cost of expansion and purchase of state-of-the-art equipment. Renovations will include a larger patient waiting area, space for clinical trials, more consultation/examination rooms and an expanded chemotherapy treatment area. 