



## DEALING IN DUBLIN

Industry, Trade and Technology Minister Sandra C. Kelly and Irish Prime Minister (Taoiseach) Bertie Ahern focused on trade agreements and partnerships during a business mission to Ireland. The mission, organized by Ireland Business Partnerships and the St. John's Board of Trade, has seen new partnerships built between organizations and businesses in Newfoundland and Labrador and Ireland.

Minister Kelly said that the mission helped move the province's relationship with Ireland forward. "The MOU between Newfoundland and Labrador and the Republic of Ireland continues to be a catalyst for successful partnerships. The deals signed during this mission highlight the ongoing business link that our two regions share."

Twenty-three Newfoundland and Labrador organizations and businesses participated in the mission and four agreements were signed in Ireland on October 9. Business-to-business agreements covered a diverse range of industries: information technology, manufacturing and marine environmental management. The St. John's Board of Trade, Ireland Business Partnerships and the Galway Chamber of Commerce also signed an Agreement for Economic Cooperation which would create a formal relationship to explore mutually beneficial initiatives. ☞

## Waste Management gets funding

Projects which improve waste management, contribute to the province's recycling efforts and support community cleanups will get a boost from the \$4 million Waste Management Trust Fund. Environment and Labour Minister Oliver Langdon announced on October 11 that \$3 million of this fund will be specifically allocated to waste management initiatives which regionalize landfill operations or support waste diversion.

"For Newfoundland and Labrador to meet its waste management challenges head on, communities must come together to find regional solutions to waste management problems," said Minister Langdon. "We need fewer sites that are better managed and operated, employ modern technologies and encourage waste separation and recycling."

Applications for funding will be accepted and evaluated through the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board. Priority will be given to applications received by January 31, 2001. Last year, 137 projects were allocated funding and total project expenditures, including the proponents' share, were estimated at \$5 million. ☞

## Re-design to help department's clients

Clients who rely on income support from the Department of Human Resources and Employment will have improved service due to three new initiatives, Minister Julie Bettney stated recently. The three initiatives include an extended drug card for singles and families without children, a new liquid assets policy and a revised rate structure for singles over 29.

"I'm happy to report that as of October 1, all three measures were successfully integrated into our income support program," said the Minister. "All three offer additional support to clients and remove disincentives to join the workforce."

The extension of drug cards actively removes a major barrier to employment as clients will still be covered for six months after leaving the income support program for employment purposes.

The new equitable assets policy will allow clients to increase the amount of money they can retain in a bank account. The introduction of a new income support rate structure for singles aged 29 and over, like the family benefit announced last year, is designed to create a more equitable and simplified system. These initiatives, expected to be valued at \$1.7 million annually, went into effect on October 1. ☞

