



## Protecting our NATURAL HERITAGE

The government's strategy for the province's Natural Areas Plan, entitled *Protecting Our Natural Heritage*, was released by Charles Furey, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation on October 26. This policy document outlines how government will achieve the objective of protecting provincial natural spaces and is an initial step in a process which will result in the release of the Natural Areas Plan.

"The protection and preservation of natural areas and species offers exceptional benefits, enjoyment and educational opportunities for present and future generations, and the release of this document is an important step in achieving our goal of protecting our natural heritage," said the minister.

Lloyd Matthews, Minister of Education (Acting), Dr. Luise Hermanutz, co-chair of the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) and Laura Jackson, executive director of the Protected Areas Association joined Minister Furey for the announcement at St. Matthews Elementary School in St. John's. Each was pleased with the direction government is taking in protecting natural areas.

A copy of the policy document will be sent to every school in the province. As well, *Protecting Our Natural Heritage* may be obtained by contacting the Parks and Natural Areas division of the Department of Tourism, Culture & Recreation: (709) 729-2424. ☎

## Workers' Compensation review announced

Environment and Labour Minister Oliver Langdon and J. Wayne Trask, chairperson of the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission announced on October 27 that a complete review of the existing workers' compensation system as required by the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission Act.

A task force of the commission's board of directors will conduct the review with Mr. Trask as chair. Other committee members include Reg Anstey, Judy Vanta, Roger Flood and Don Warr. They will ensure strong representation for key stakeholders such as employers, workers and the public.

"We are undertaking this review now in response to requests by key stakeholders and in recognition of the fact that the commission is facing serious financial issues that require immediate attention," said Minister Langdon. "The approach we are taking now is different from past practices because special circumstances warrant special attention."

Consultations with key stakeholders will take place at several locations throughout the province, beginning in early January, and a round table discussion will be held in St. John's in late January. A discussion paper of key issues will be available in coming weeks. The task force will report to the minister by February 16, 2001 with recommendations. ☎

## Web-based partnership announced

Success~Works, the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology's e-business site for economic development ([www.success.nfld.net](http://www.success.nfld.net)), is taking a stronger partnership approach. Minister Sandra C. Kelly announced the new Success~Works Regional Partnerships project in Gander during Small Business Week. The partnership will connect economic development web sites and business information directly through Success~Works, allowing easy access to businesses and economic information in the province.

The partnership will begin with a pilot project between the department and the Kittiwake Economic Development Corporation. The minister joined Paul Stride, executive

director of the Corporation, to launch the partnership. "By taking a unified approach, we are able to bring all of the pertinent business information on the Kittiwake region under one roof," said Minister Kelly. "From a business perspective, this is a tremendous advantage for anyone looking for information on the region."

Building on the Kittiwake pilot, economic groups in regions across the province will unite under the Success~Works banner. Members, including economic development groups and individual businesses, will input and update their information. Information on businesses, infrastructure, educational resources, among other things, will be available. ☎

