



## Amendments to

### **TOBACCO LEGISLATION** *introduced*

Health and Community Services Minister Roger Grimes introduced legislation in the House of Assembly on December 5 which would amend the existing Tobacco Control Act and the Smoke-free Environment Act.

The proposed amendments are designed to further limit young people's access to tobacco products, as well as broaden the restrictions on smoking in public places and better enforce anti-tobacco legislation.

Minister Grimes said the Tobacco Control Act and the Smoke-free Environment Act were enacted in 1994 to prevent young people from purchasing tobacco products and to reduce or eliminate smoking in a variety of public facilities.

"These legislative amendments are part of an aggressive agenda being undertaken by this government to reduce the harmful effects of smoking on our population - now and into the future," Minister Grimes said. "We have a responsibility to protect our citizens from the health risks associated with second-hand smoke and to discourage our young people from acquiring this dangerous habit."

Government has actively supported several projects designed to bring the anti-smoking message home to young people, including the Alliance for the Control of Tobacco, the Teen Tobacco Team, the Kick the Nic stop smoking campaign, and the popular "Smoking Sucks" campaign. ☞

## Government announces RURAL FORUM

Ernest McLean, acting Minister of Development and Rural Renewal, announced a unique three-day event for the spring of 2001.

Rural Forum 2001 will showcase and promote the growth of the economic and business successes of rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Presenters to the Cabinet Committee on Jobs and Growth emphasized the role of attitude as a tool for economic development in its own right," said Minister McLean. "Rural Forum 2001 responds to that challenge."

The three-day forum will consist of four main components: a Conference Program, a Rural Business Exhibition, a Youth Forum, and the first annual Community Economic Development Awards banquet.

Minister McLean noted that the forum is one of several initiatives announced to date in response to the recommendations to government during the Jobs and Growth consultations. Others initiatives include two new programs in the Department of Development and Rural Renewal to support the development of small businesses, and two new venture capital tax credit investment programs. ☞

## Main River Draft Management Plan

Sandra C. Kelly, acting Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, announced government's completion of a draft management plan for the Main River which will form the basis for obtaining Canadian Heritage River (CHR) status.

The package includes a detailed approach to managing the protected area corridor and a draft Stewardship Agreement between key stakeholder groups.

As a step towards Canadian Heritage River designation, the provincial government proposes to establish a Provincial Waterway Park in the corridor of the Main River, and proposes to designate the remainder of the viewshed as a Special Management Area, thereby providing additional protection to the Provincial Waterway Park.

Copies of the plan are available for review and the public is invited to submit comments until December 18, 2000. ☞

